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WEDNESDAY REVIEW FRONT



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# Free to go home – but you're still guilty of killing the baby

Manslaughter verdict on Louise Woodward upheld in knife-edge 4-3 ruling by Boston appeal court

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in Boston

IN A tight four to three majority ruling, the highest court in Massachusetts yesterday upheld the manslaughter conviction imposed last November on British au pair Louise Woodward, allowing her to return to her home in Cheshire a free woman.

The decision effectively closes the book on a trial that stirred deep emotions in Britain especially, but also in America. It was an extraordinary drama leading to her conviction last October of the second degree murder of Matthew Eappen, and the subsequent ruling by the judge, Hillier Zobel, which reduced the conviction to manslaughter. For 20-year-old Ms Woodward, who will still carry a manslaughter conviction against her name, it was an escape that almost did not happen. In releasing its decision yesterday, the Supreme Judicial Court, which has a panel of seven justices, revealed that it had been reached only by a split vote – unusual for this court which pondered the Woodward appeals for a full three months. Had the dissenting judges prevailed, they would have upheld Judge Zobel's downgrading of the murder conviction to manslaughter but overruled his simultaneous decision to release Ms Woodward on the 279 days she had already served in prison. Because state guidelines suggest three to five years' jail for manslaughter, Ms Woodward would almost certainly have gone back behind bars.

In the end, however, the ma-

### THE FINAL VERDICT

*"She stands guilty of causing an infant's violent death... The conviction shall stand"*

### HER LAWYERS

*"The judgment that Louise Woodward is a felon is a miscarriage of justice"*

majority found that Judge Zobel had acted within the discretion allowed him under state law. "The sentence imposed by the judge is lawful," it said. "The conviction of manslaughter, together with the sentence imposed, shall stand."

Shortly after the ruling, Ms Woodward left the Marblehead house where she had been staying with her father, Gary, and headed to an unknown destination. Assuming she is able to recover her passport being held by the court, she could back in Elton by today. "Absolutely fantastic," Sue Woodward, her mother, said in response yesterday in Elton.

There was no immediate reaction from Sumil and Deborah Eappen, the parents of Matthew, who hurriedly left their home after the court's decision became known. But his grandmother, Achamma Eappen, said: "I'm not angry, you lose faith in the justice system, you really do."

But Andrew Gold, one of Ms Woodward's defence team, maintained his client's inno-

cence. "The outcome of this case is, in our view, a miscarriage of justice and the characterisation and judgment that Louise Woodward is a felon is a matter that we consider to be a miscarriage of justice."

"We are both disappointed and relieved at what has happened. We don't know yet when Louise will leave the country to return home. There is hard biological evidence that this skull fracture did not occur. We believe and we always have done that Louise is innocent," he said.

Even the majority opinion yesterday expressed grave reservations about the conduct of Judge Zobel in the trial. In making his controversial ruling on 10 November last year, Judge Zobel said that while he thought Ms Woodward had killed the child, she had acted as a young person at the end of her tether.

The four justices underlined: "We do not view the judgment against Woodward as a light matter. She stands guilty of causing an infant's violent death. The outcome of this

criminal trial most assuredly was not an 'acquittal'."

While the majority said it had no complaint about the "day-to-day handling" of the trial, he had made a mistake close to its end by according to a defence request that the jury be allowed to consider only two possible verdicts: not guilty or guilty of murder, thus excluding a compromise manslaughter conviction. The judge had made an "error in according to Woodward's request", the justices said.

In their dissenting opinion, the three minority justices noted: "Woodward's tactics, with the judge's approbation, transformed the trial from a search for the truth to a high stakes game of chance. In a phrase, Woodward brought the result on her self."

The dissenting opinion, which bears no legal weight, added that Woodward stood convicted "of a grave act of child abuse" and "should not in the future be entrusted with the care of children of others". They added that she should be barred from "any activity generating any profit or financial benefit" from the case. That would rule out book or newspaper deals.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, yesterday said: "In deciding if they intend to make payment to a criminal convicted in open court such a Louise Woodward, it will be for editors, against the background of the clear advice given by the court in this case, to make a judgement about the specific terms of the code."

A girl who shook the justice system, Reaction in Elton, page 3



Louise Woodward was free to return to Britain last night after the Massachusetts court ruling

Reuters

## Widdecombe reveals her beauty tips

THE CONSERVATIVE health spokeswoman Ann Widdecombe is a true-blue Tory but today she reveals that she prefers something else entirely when it comes to nail polish. "I like Winter Berries and Powerful Peach, but you may well hate them," she says in an question and answer session with Independent readers.

Miss Widdecombe, known for her uncompromising views on gays, abortion and lone parents, seemed thrilled to be asked for her manicure secrets. "As this is the only beauty advice I am ever likely to be

BY ANN TRENNEMAN

asked to give, I am going to make the most of it," she says, revealing that she uses Jessica or Loreal, and in rather strident colours too.

"I always use a base coat to avoid discolouring the nails and I use an oily drying agent rather than a spray so the colour does not dull," she says.

Miss Widdecombe admitted that she had been "head over heels, sick-to-the-stomach in love" and that she had no plans whatsoever to diet. "No way. I may be roly-poly but I am



Ann Widdecombe, fond of Winter Berries nail polish

happy and a diet would just make me grumpy. However, if ever I feel I would like to lose weight I shall miss elevenes most, but I currently have no plans to do so."

She said the member of the Government she is mostly likely to ask for dinner is David Blunkett's guide dog, Lucy.

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## Elite team of lawyers planned to improve rape conviction rate

A CORE of specialist rape prosecutors is to be assembled by the Crown Prosecution Service to improve conviction rates in brutal sex cases.

Lawyers are to be given courses where they meet rape victims in order that they have a greater understanding of the effects of the crime.

They will also be given coaching in cross-examination and investigation techniques used in previous successful rape prosecutions.

News of the programme, which is due to begin next year, comes after *The Independent* revealed a dramatic rise in so-called date rapes, carried out by men who knew the victim.

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Women are now reporting rape attacks at the rate of nearly 18 a day but many defendants successfully claim that the victim consented to sex, and only 9 per cent of attacks are successfully prosecuted.

A CPS spokeswoman said last night: "This is about building up a core of people to deal with rape cases so that we have a group of specialists we can draw on."

The CPS is working with the police and victim support groups to establish the new courses, the first of which will be based at the Research Cen-

tre on Violence, Abuse and Gender Relations at Leeds Metropolitan University.

The curriculum is likely to include lessons on the lasting effects of rape crimes on women and their children.

The lawyers will also be told of the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder on victims, so that they have greater sympathy with clients who have taken many months to come forward with accusations.

People taking the course will receive instruction on the use of expert witnesses and in countering the common prejudices of juries.

The Leeds programme is being headed by Helen

Grindrod QC, who successfully prosecuted in the 1996 rape trials of the millionaire tycoon Owen Oyston and his friend, the model agency boss and former policeman Peter Martin.

She said many prosecutors at rape trials failed to appreciate the extent of the trauma suffered by their client and consequently did not pursue the case with sufficient vigour.

She was particularly concerned at the failure of prosecutors to seek to prevent the victim's previous sexual history being revealed as evidence in court.

"I think that they may know that they have the power to intervene but don't see it

as their duty to do so," she said.

Jamal Hamner, a professor in women's studies at the university, said that lawyers who monitored to see if they went on to achieve a higher conviction rate in rape cases than their counterparts.

Although CPS barristers and solicitors cannot be made to go on the specialist rape courses, those that do are more likely to receive instructions to handle such cases.

Barristers often do not handle their first rape case until they have been practising for 12 years. Their previous experience is often confined to reading about past cases.

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 32

In its annual analysis of union support, the TUC reveals its concern over a "surprisingly low" level of membership among the "new" jobs in the growing service sector. Only 9 per cent of sales personnel are union members, it has found. While around half of professional and "associate professional" employees are union members, only a quarter of the "less skilled" were members, according to the report.

The Vectris 200, available in an outfit for £159.99

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map [right]. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc. 12p tax).

## BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

Most recent available figure at noon local time.

Key: C:cloudy; O:clear; F:fair; Fg: fog; H: haze; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; Sl: sleet; Sh: showers; S.n: snow; Th: thunder.

Aberdeen	C 12 54	Dover	F 17 63	London	C 17 63
Anglesey	F 14 57	Dublin	F 15 59	Manchester	C 15 55
Belfast	F 14 57	Edinburgh	R 12 54	Newcastle	C 12 54
Bristol	R 16 61	Exeter	F 16 64	Oxford	C 15 59
Birmingham	F 14 57	Glasgow	R 14 57	Plymouth	C 18 64
Birmingham	F 14 57	Greenwich	S 16 61	Scarborough	R 12 54
Bournemouth	C 16 61	Inverness	C 12 54	Southampton	C 17 63
Brighton	C 16 61	Isleworth	C 13 55	Southend	C 17 63
Cardiff	F 15 59	Leamington	S 15 59	Swansea	F 12 54
Cardiff	F 15 59	Leeds	F 15 59	York	F 12 54
Cardiff	F 15 59	Liverpool	F 15 59		



# Woodward case: High suspense trial of the nanny from Cheshire captured the public imagination like no other

## Ordinary girl who put justice on trial

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in Boston

IT IS over. Almost two years after a young Cheshire girl, fresh out of school, left home for nine months of adventure and character-building as an au pair in the United States, she is finally coming home. What happened in Boston was no holiday; it was a nightmare, a tragedy that brought death to the family who welcomed her, held Britain in thrall, and shook the American justice system to its core.

It often seemed as if the Louise Woodward saga would never end. On 9 February last year, when the baby who had been in her care, Matthew Eappen, was rushed to hospital dying, she can have had no notion of what lay ahead: months of incarceration followed by a trial of heart-stopping suspense.

The case caught the public imagination to an extent no one could have predicted. With features that seemed younger than her 18 years, she presented an almost Alice-in-Wonderland image: a girl suddenly trapped in a world that made no sense to her. The boy she said she had lavished with love and affection - with whom she had played "tummy time" and taught to crawl - was dead and she was accused of killing him.

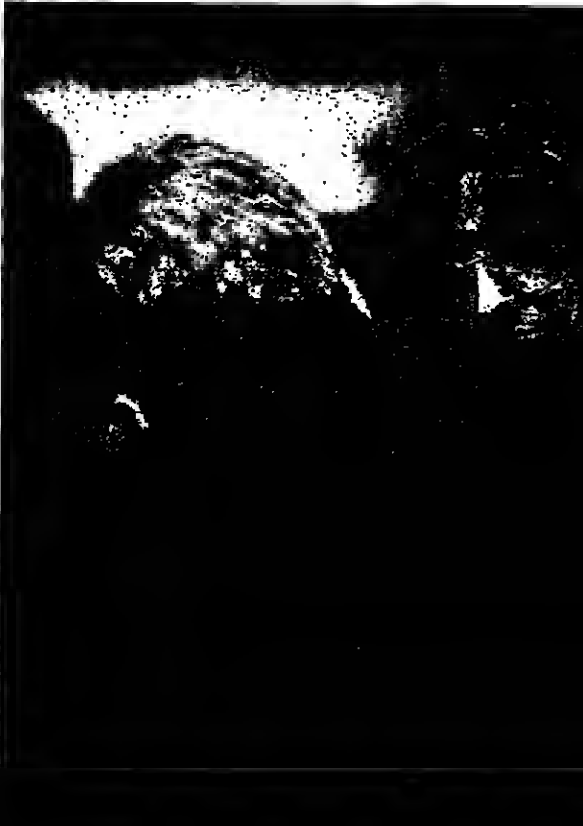
It was not only Woodward who was on trial. In British eyes, the whole American court system, which let local newspapers run riot over the story with no regard to the jury that would eventually judge, was also in the dock. Spurred by the nationalist instincts of British media, the word was out that Woodward was not going to get fair treatment. Many of us embraced the assumption that she was the victim in the affair.

What we also did not foresee was the unrelenting tumble of twists and turns in the affair, each more sensational than the last. The murder verdict, and the howls of despair in the Rigger Pub in Elton. The intervention of Judge Zobel who reduced the charge to manslaughter and let her go. And then, while we awaited yesterday's ruling from the Supreme Court, the descent into a virtual circus of allegations and counter-allegations that stemmed from the bitter sacking from the defence team of Elaine Whitfield Sharp.

It all began just 15 months ago, on 4 February 1997, when Matthew Eappen was whisked to the Boston Children's Hospital sinking into a coma. Quickly, Louise, who had been alone that day with him and his two-year-old brother, Brendan, was arrested and charged with assault.

It was five days later that the charge was upgraded to murder and she was sent, in iron, to a high security prison. Hours before, Deborah and Sunil Eappen, the doctor-parents of the child, had seen him disconnected from life support.

It took until October for the trial at last to get under way in an ugly concrete tower in Cambridge. For four weeks, arguments were traded that, in their medical complexity, would have befuddled even the most seasoned expert in brain trauma and skull injury. It was about shaken baby syndrome and sub-dural clotting. But it was legal theatre more gripping than Britain had ever known:



Louise Woodward giving evidence; Matthew Eappen, the nine-month-old baby who died in February 1997; Deborah Eappen, his mother, giving evidence; Louise with her attorneys, Andrew Good and Elaine Whitfield Sharp, as she reacts to the murder verdict; and her delight last November when she was freed

### HOW THE DRAMA UNFOLDED

Summer 1996 Louise Woodward begins work in Boston as an au pair.

November 1996 Woodward joins Sunil and Deborah Eappen, the second family to employ her. The couple, both doctors, have two children, Matthew, five months, and Brendan, two years.

4 February 1997 Matthew Eappen is taken to hospital suffering from convulsions. Woodward is arrested and charged with assault.

9 February 1997 Matthew is taken off life support and dies. Woodward charged with murder.

6 October 1997 Woodward goes on trial in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Case centres on complicated medical evidence relating to when the injury occurred. Prosecution says 2.5-inch fracture in baby's skull was inflicted by Woodward shaking and slamming him against a hard surface. Defence contends the fracture was old and a smaller incident on 4 February triggered the fatal bleeding.

30 October 1997 The jury returns verdict of guilty of second-degree murder. Woodward receives automatic prison sentence of minimum of 15 years.

10 November 1997 Judge Hiller Zobel reduces the conviction to manslaughter and the sentence to the 279 days already served. Although free, Woodward is ordered to stay in Massachusetts.

9 March 1998 Supreme Judicial Court in Boston hears appeals from both sides. The prosecution seek to have Judge Zobel's ruling quashed and the defence want Woodward cleared.

25 May 1998 Deborah Eappen gives birth to a son, Kevin, 7lb 8oz.

1 June 1998 Elaine Whitfield Sharp, in whose home Woodward had been living while awaiting appeal ruling, is dismissed from defence team after claims that, when arrested for drunken driving, she cast doubt on Woodward's innocence.

for the first time, thanks to America's in-court cameras, the country watched a young British woman on trial for murder.

As the trial progressed, the fascination only deepened. Some dared to ask: did this girl kill Matty Eappen, as the prosecution contended, by viciously shaking him and slamming his head against a hard surface, the side of a bathtub, perhaps? And a parallel debate began to rage: what fault, if any, lay with Deborah and Sunil, the ambitious young parents who had entrusted their children to a stranger, an inexperienced nanny, as they pursued their medical careers in their respective Boston hospitals?

The highlights remain vivid. Sunil

on the witness stand, his face creasing in tears as he related holding his child for the last time. Louise on the witness stand actually smiling when asked by her own lawyer if she had smashed the boy's head.

That Louise had been no Mary Poppins was clear to most of us. There had been disputes in the Eappen house about her determination to go out on the town. Bizarrely, she had been to see the musical *Rent* some 20 times. But if the task of the defence was to throw up reasonable doubt, most assumed it was amply achieved. Its contention was this: the two-and-a-half-inch fracture in Matty's skull that came to kill him had been inflicted several weeks before 4 February. It

had been some much more minor event on that day that had led to the bleeding on the brain.

Then came the drama of the trial's conclusion. Louise, on the advice of her lawyers, elected to ask the jury to consider just two options - innocence or guilt on a charge of murder. She did not want manslaughter as a compromise solution. So, when the jury returned on 30 October, after 27 hours of deliberation, with a murder conviction, there was profound shock. Louise walked in her seat on the defence bench, her parents and supporters were dazed.

The judge, Hiller Zobel, withdrew to his chambers - where, some said, he was sick - came back, and delivered the automatic life

sentence, implying a minimum of 15 years.

Two weeks later, Judge Zobel dropped his bombshell, downgrading the conviction to manslaughter and releasing Louise on 279 days already served. Few could remember a more controversial judicial decision in the history of the state. The prosecution protested that the judge had set himself up as a thirteenth juror. What was the point of having a jury, it asked? Equally astonishing was the reduced sentence. Massachusetts guidelines, moreover, called for jail time of 3 to 5 years.

It was Judge Zobel's action that the Supreme Judicial Court, the highest court in Massachusetts, has been weighing since it heard combined appeals from the prosecution

and the defence three months ago. Thanks to Ms Woodward's falling out with Ms Whitfield Sharp, a period that should have been one of quiet anticipation was anything but. Ms Whitfield Sharp was dismissed from the defence on 1 June, following her arrest for drunken driving. According to the trooper who pulled her over, she complained of stress over the case and intimated that she had come to believe her client was guilty.

Then, last week, we witnessed the spectacle of Ms Whitfield Sharp's husband, Daniel, alleging that Louise's parents, Sue and Gary, had used a forged invoice to skim nearly £9,000 from the Elton-based support-Woodward trust fund.

At the Supreme Court, meanwhile, the panel of seven justices had multiple options. They could have acquitted Woodward, upheld Judge Zobel, thus leaving manslaughter against her name, or returned her to the legal mincer. If the latter had been the decision, she could have been resentenced, ordered to stand a new trial or sent back to prison under the original jury conviction of second-degree murder.

Her final escape was a close call. Three of the four judges filed dissenting opinions. If they had prevailed, a resentencing would have been ordered and Louise, instead of heading back to Elton, could have been in a prison van on the road to Framingham.

## 'The whole village is behind her' Press warned on buy-ups

BY ESTHER LEACH

THE VILLAGE of Elton was subdued yesterday as the news of Louise Woodward's release came through.

Her mother, Sue Woodward, remained in her detached home with members of the support group other friends and family refusing to come out to talk to the ranks of reporters waiting for a statement.

But Paul Barrow, a solicitor representing the trustees of the Louise Woodward fund, appeared on the front lawn to give a very brief statement. He said that Sue Woodward

### THE REACTION IN ELTON

had expressed relief that the ordeal was at an end. There wouldn't be any further comments, he said, until Ms Woodward was back in the country.

One supporter, Lesley Lockett, from Runcorn, said that she never believed the judges would make any other decision than to let her come home. "I have always believed she is innocent and will continue to push to clear her name."

The chairman of the trustees, Ken Davey, said: "Everyone here is

pleased with the verdict. It's time to think over some of the emotions of the people in the case and not forget the emotions of the Eappens. It's a time for reflection and to take stock."

Yellow ribbons, symbolising the fight to free Ms Woodward and bring her home, are still tied to trees in Elton. Julie Smith, the landlady of the Rigger pub, said: "I'm pleased she's coming home and we'll take it from there. We've not forgotten that a baby was killed. We've all got children or grandchildren. I'm scared to say anything in case it might get misconstrued."

Campaigners for the Louise

Woodward Appeal Fund said they would fight on to clear her name.

Garth Jones said: "We still get letters of support every day from all over the world and we'll still be campaigning to clear her name when she returns. I know she'll cope, she's got a strong character, a strong family and good friends. Despite what some may say the whole village is behind her." Although the usual number of supporters did not pack into The Rigger, Mr Jones said it was not because people did not care. "They learnt their lesson from the last debacle. People think the best thing to do is keep a low profile and rejoice in the fact that she's coming home."

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

THE *Daily Mail* is believed to have secured exclusive rights to Louise Woodward's story despite declaring that it would not be paying her money and despite the recommendation by one of the US appeal judges that she should make no financial gain from the death of Matthew Eappen.

The *Mail* is understood to have a long-term understanding in place with Ms Woodward's family reported in the past to be worth £40,000. It was first dependent on her conviction being overturned, but it now be-

lieved that the newspaper is looking closely at the Press Complaints Commission rule which bans payments to a convicted criminal.

The *Mail* issued a statement yesterday saying that it was not paying the nanny and that "The *Daily Mail* has always supported the PCC's ruling that newspapers should not pay money to convicted criminals".

But the newspaper's managing editor Lawrence Sear repeatedly refused to deny it would pay any money to Ms Woodward's family or any agent representing her. It is thought that payment to the nanny could take the form of a book deal.

One of the dissenting judges stat-

ed in the ruling: "As a felon convicted of a grave act of child abuse... Woodward and her representatives or assignees should be prohibited from engaging in any activity generating any profit or financial benefit relating to the publication or dissemination by any form of media facts or circumstances relating to her crime, her experience in the judicial system, or anything else associated with the tragic event for which she stands convicted."

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, hinted strongly yesterday that any newspaper buying her story would be censured.



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# England fans deported by French

## Police chiefs 'fuelled' violence

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

MISTAKES BY senior French police officers were yesterday blamed for the scale of the football violence both in Marseilles and Paris.

French police unions accused them of reacting slowly and making tactical errors.

Gérard Boyer, secretary-general of the Alliance, to which one in three French policemen belong, complained that specialist riot police should have been deployed earlier.

When the fighting began in Marseilles, he said, 1,400 out of 2,000 police were ordinary officers, not trained to deal with civil disorder.

He complained that the authorities were "terrified" of seeming to over-react by sending in the riot police or mobile gendarmes units as soon as trouble broke out.

The same mistake was made in Paris last Tuesday and again last Friday, he said, when young trouble-makers from deprived suburbs invaded the Champs Elysees.

The approach of the French police had earned praise from the British Government and senior British police officers.

However, France's National Union of Uniformed Officers - which also claims about 33 per cent membership among French police - said the violence in Marseilles was "neither bad luck nor inevitable".

It said better preventative measures could have been taken. Instead, members were exposed to "urban guerrilla warfare".

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE  
in Marseilles

may simply return to France.

Police chiefs in Toulouse yesterday announced that they were calling up reinforcements in advance of England's World Cup clash in the city.

Stung by the criticism surrounding the police response in Marseilles on Monday and over the weekend, Alain Bidon, head of Toulouse police, said that an extra 180 officers would be on duty for Monday's game against Romania.

It brings the total police presence for the match - to be attended by 3,500 English fans - to 1,300.

"We do have growing concerns," a police spokeswoman admitted yesterday.

Senior officers are particularly concerned about the potential for trouble in the centre of the medieval city - famous for its dish of cassoulet - sited on the River Garonne.

Intelligence sources for the British police have confirmed that more of the hard-core Category C football hooligans have arrived in France.

Dominique Baudis, the mayor of Toulouse, has cancelled the annual music festival, planned for this Sunday, because of fears of violence between English and Romanian supporters.

The festival is hugely popular in the city and one English resident described it like "the mayor of Edinburgh cancelling Hogmanay".

British police in Marseilles said that now the dust had settled, it seemed the financial cost of the damage wrought on the city was probably not as bad as had been feared at the height of the violence.

This has not stopped the deputy mayor of Marseilles, Renaud Muselier, calling for the British authorities to pay compensation for the damage done.

He said: "Our city, known as a meeting place of nations, cannot tolerate this provocation and behaviour which tarnishes



International problem: police arrest German fans for trying to see their country play against USA in Paris without tickets Jack Guez/AFP

our image. Quite apart from the official excuses for this unfortunately predictable event our town is waiting for the British authorities to pay for the cost of damage. The image and dignity of the cup, symbol of fraternal competition, demand that the England team be dismissed or excluded. The supporters behaved in the streets like louts."

Home Secretary Jack Straw has indicated he is seeking an early meeting with the French

authorities to discuss the question of possible compensation, a British spokesman said.

Up to five more English supporters were due to appear last night before magistrates at Marseilles' Palais de Justice, where they face a number of charges relating to disorder and violence.

Three supporters have already been jailed for up to three months for their involvement in the violence on Sunday night. It transpired yesterday

that one of the hooligans jailed, James Shayler, 34, from Naseby, Leicestershire, was a member of the official England Members Club and had been screened by the National Criminal Intelligence Services football unit. It is understood he had obtained a ticket for last Monday's game from the FA.

Shayler, along with others jailed, will spend the next two months in Marseilles' Beaumettes jail, a notoriously hot and overcrowded prison

built 200 years ago, where inmates are allowed only two showers a week.

England manager Glenn Hoddle yesterday welcomed the jail sentences handed out.

He said: "I am not saying there has not been a problem with English supporters. It was good to see that if any of them did cause problems that some ended up in jail. I wish we had that procedure at home."

It was also reported yesterday that a further five English

supporters arrested over the weekend have been deported back to Britain, a move put into process earlier this week by the French interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

Just how many English supporters will make it to Toulouse is unclear and previous estimates have proved to be little more than speculation. It was estimated there would be no more than 20,000 in Marseilles. As it happened, there were probably closer to 30,000.

### IN BRIEF

#### Foul play ruled out in death of five-year-old found in river

POLICE HAVE ruled out foul play in the death of a boy whose body was found in the River Clyde 48 hours after he vanished from his home in Glasgow's Gorbals area. After a post-mortem examination yesterday, Strathclyde police said Ernest Barrie, five, died from drowning. "At present, there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding Ernest's death," said police.

The boy vanished on Friday night from his home, quarter of a mile from the spot where his body was discovered.

#### Escape slide ripped from plane

AN EMERGENCY escape slide which was deployed in mid-air as a jumbo jet approached Heathrow Airport was ripped from its fittings and landed on a petrol station. The slide of the Boeing 747 was found on the roof of the forecourt three miles from the runway. A report yesterday by the Air Accidents Investigations Branch into the 1996 incident reveals the slide caused minor damage to the aircraft's wing as it was torn away in the slipstream.

#### Mother decides to let son die

A DEVOTED mother's request for treatment to be withdrawn from her accident victim son so that he could die with dignity after seven years in a "persistent vegetative state" was granted today by a senior High Court judge.

The mother said her plea was "a last act of love" for 24-year-old MM, described as "a brilliant student and fine athlete" now left in a "hopeless state".

#### Virtues of garlic exposed as myth

PEOPLE WHO munch large amounts of garlic can no longer defend the antisocial aspects of their habit on health grounds, it was disclosed yesterday. The notion that garlic thins the blood and combats heart disease was exposed as a modern myth by researchers. Dr Heiner Berthold and colleagues from the University of Bonn, in Germany, showed that commercial garlic oil preparations do not lower cholesterol levels, as had been claimed.

## Livingstone may have to wait for mayor bid

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S bid to become the first directly-elected mayor of London looked set to be postponed until the millennium, the Government hinted yesterday.

Ministers indicated that the first mayor and assembly may not be set up until May 2000 - a year later than hoped. They

blamed lack of parliamentary time, but there were suspicions the delay was aimed at finding a more compelling candidate to knock out Mr Livingstone's challenge.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary

of State for Health, is reluctant to allow his name to go forward while he is still a member of the Cabinet, and he wants to keep his present job to fulfil Labour's election promise to reduce NHS waiting lists.

That could now take at least two years. The Labour leadership fears the other leading

Labour candidate, Glenda Jackson, the London transport minister, will need longer to have any chance of beating Mr Livingstone, who is well known for running the GLC.

A spokesman for the Environment Department insisted that no date had been set for the elections.

## Mother jailed for killing daughters

A MOTHER was jailed for three years after admitting killing her two new-born babies because she could not cope.

Housewife Tina Jamadar, 32, yesterday denied murder at Leeds Crown Court, but admitted the infanticide of her daughters Yasmin, 13 days, and Aleisha, 14 days.

Mrs Justice Smith said Jamadar had tried to be a good mother and there was no doubt that "when you killed each of your babies the balance of your mind was disturbed by reason of your not having fully recovered from the birth".

But she said that Jamadar still bore "significant moral responsibility" for the deaths, adding: "It is the second death

which makes it impossible for me to do anything other than deprive you of your liberty."

The court heard that Jamadar, of Bell Street, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, initially denied any involvement in the deaths, which occurred six years apart.

After Yasmin died in May 1990 a post-mortem examination concluded she was a cot death victim. Jamadar claimed she found the baby, who was six weeks premature, blue in her cot and not breathing. But suspicions were raised about Yasmin's death after Jamadar's second child Aleisha, who was born in April 1996, was rushed to hospital when she was 14-days-old. She died a week later.

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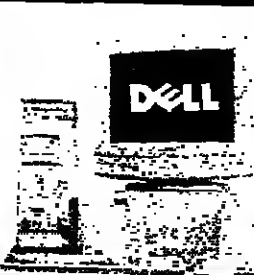
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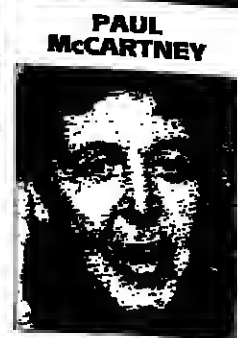
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FROM THE BEATLES TO THE VERVE: WHAT THE ROCK STARS SAY ABOUT NARCOTICS



**PAUL MCCARTNEY**  
The former Beatle has spoken positively of drugs. He said: "We should criminalise cannabis like Holland. I've added that he found the effect of drugs 'quite uplifting'."



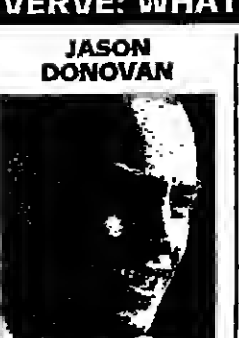
**DAVID BOWIE**  
The maverick rock star once admitted he spent much of the 1970s crazed by cocaine but said: "I'm glad I did everything I did. Some come out better for it."



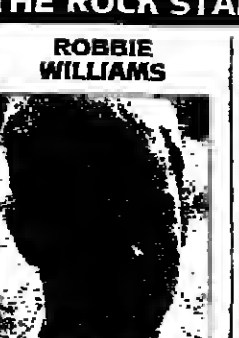
**STING**  
A teacher by training, he claimed two years ago that young victims of Ecstasy had died from ignorance, not from the drug itself, and called for it to be legalised.



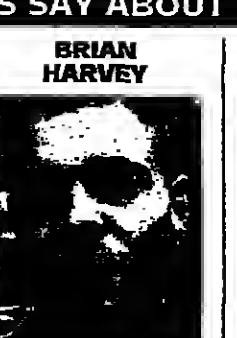
**COURTNEY LOVE**  
Wife of rock'n'roll suicide Kurt Cobain, renowned for her drink and drug binges. She went into detox two years ago after boyfriend Edward Norton told her: "It's heroin or me."



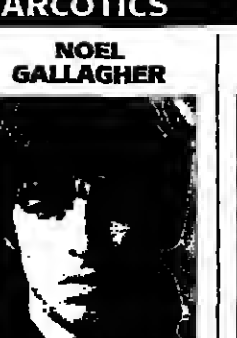
**JASON DONOVAN**  
The ex-Neighbours star collapsed at Johnny Depp's club in Los Angeles during a drug session. "Within the entertainment industry, the opportunity to take drugs sometimes arises."



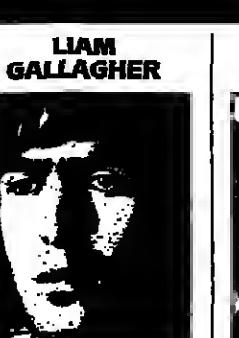
**ROBBIE WILLIAMS**  
Former Take That star said he had tried every drug but heroin. "If I had not taken drugs and slept with lots of girls when I was in a pop group... I would have been abnormal."



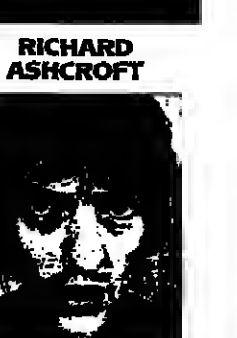
**BRIAN HARVEY**  
Was sacked from boy band East 17 last year after telling of taking 12 Ecstasy tablets in one night and claiming: "It's a safe pill." Also said the drug made you a better person.



**NOEL GALLAGHER**  
Oasis songwriter sparked outrage last year when he said most Britons took drugs and compared the habit to "getting up and having a cup of tea in the morning."



**LIAM GALLAGHER**  
Oasis's lead singer has admitted spending up to £300 a day on cocaine. When asked how he could blow so much on the drug, he simply said: "Because I like it."



**RICHARD ASHCROFT**  
Verve singer said: "We went from experimenting with drugs to going round the world and going insane. We just seemed to want to take it a bit too far."

# Music industry defends use of drugs

IT'S AS old as the guitar riff, and as ubiquitous in music mythology as groupies, roadies and smashed-up hotel rooms. It is the heady mixture of "sex and drugs and rock'n'roll."

But yesterday Sir George Martin, the former Beatles producer and elder statesman of the business, called for the narcotic element of the cocktail to be forcibly removed - by record companies banning emerging stars who take drugs. He also appealed to stars in other entertainment industries to speak out about the dangers of narcotics.

But his suggestion was given short shrift by the record industry. A spokesman said music was a multi-million pound business that could not afford to ditch future talent.

The debate surfaced at the Association of Chief Police Officers conference in Hinkley, Leicestershire.

Sir George told the delegates: "People in the public eye, leaders of industry, fashion, arts and sports - they have to show the way to live without drugs. There are those who are quite happy to shrug their shoulders or turn a blind eye. I think it's time we all stood up and were counted."

He suggested that the music industry could set up a committee to examine the issue, and that if pop stars made a stand then other industries might follow.

The idea would be for record companies to refuse to sign new bands if they took drugs. Sir George added, however, that he was not "unrealistic" enough to believe companies would drop existing artists just because they were on drugs.

The conference also heard from the editor of *Vogue* that some models consumed a lot of drink and drugs, and that she had to reject a small number who turned up for fashion shoots when they were "high".

BY JASON BANNETTO  
AND JOHN DAVISON

The history of rock and roll is littered with tales of excess and drug-induced tragedy - from the deaths of 1960s icons Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix to the grunge end of Kurt Cobain in the 1990s and the very public statements of the brothers Gallagher on the subject.

Sir George, in his speech, added a few anecdotes of his own to this rich seam of stories. He said that the Beatles used to take cannabis and "pep" pills - probably speed - but never in his presence.

He also told how, during a recording session at the Abbey Road studios in London, he had to take John Lennon up to the open roof because he seemed ill - only to find he had taken LSD. The other members of the band rushed up to make sure that John did not try to fly off. But he denied the long-treasured idea amongst fans that the song *Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds* was about the drug.

He said that Lennon had picked up the idea for the lyrics from his son Julian, who had brought home a painting of a school friend called Lucy which had diamonds in the sky.

Sir George described the recent comment by Noel Gallagher of Oasis - that taking drugs was like drinking a cup of tea for many people - as "ill advised".

He predicted that the reaction from the music industry to his ideas would be unsympathetic.

He was not wrong. Alan McGee, head of the Creation record label, said Sir George had personally gained from music recorded under the influence of drugs.

Mr McGee, whose signings include self-confessed drug-takers Oasis and who has himself recovered from cocaine addiction, said: "It's all very well

for Sir George Martin to pontificate about today's record companies not signing drug users, but has he forgotten that the Beatles, the group with whom he is most associated, were users of LSD, cannabis and allegedly in John Lennon's case, heroin?"

"When he goes home to his mansion, he should think about who paid for it and what state

they were in when they recorded the records that made him rich and famous."

Part of the Government's creative task force, Mr McGee has taken a high-profile stance on drugs education and has said that sparking an informed drugs debate is one of his aims. He has backed Oasis for being open about their drug use.

John Deacon, director-gen-

eral of the British Phonographic Industry, which represents 250 record companies, was more diplomatic. He said Sir George's idea was worth considering, but appeared to rule out any radical change. "It may be at the time they initially sign (with a record company) that they may not be using drugs. Later on, they are under creative pressure

and they do - what happens in these cases?" he asked. "You can't just drop an artist because they are taking drugs."

Earlier Alexandra Shulman, editor of *Vogue*, defended the magazine industry from accusations that they were encouraging drug-taking by using pictures of famous models in a "grungy, spaced-out, possibly druggy way".

She denied that most models took drugs. "They smoke too much, they drink too much, they eat an incredible amount of junk food and certainly some of them take a lot of drugs. Some of them take a lot of drugs," she said.

She concluded that while fashion magazines did not promote drug use: "I suspect someone who is already vul-

nerable might find that image fed by what we publish."

Earlier Sir George said: "Everybody does it. That is what frightens me."

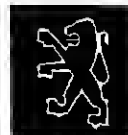
"I can hear some record company executives say: 'You must be out of your mind, you would ruin us.' What's more important? Is it the future of the country, the future of the youth, or the bottom line?"

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## Youth heeding campaigns to stay clean

DRUG-TAKING among young people is levelling off after increasing steadily for a decade, according to a wide-ranging survey published today.

The survey of 37,500 young people from Exeter University suggests that publicity about the harmful effect of drugs may be influencing behaviour.

Ten years ago only one in 25 young people had tried illegal drugs. About one in eight of the 15 and 16-year-olds in this survey, based on questionnaires, had used an illegal drug during the previous week and about one in five during the previous month.

But the figures for last year showed no increase on those for the previous year. John Balding, director of the university's schools health education unit, said: "Some studies have suggested that young people are turning to drink instead of drugs. We have found no evidence of that."

"At first we couldn't believe the figures but it looks as though it is no worse in 1997 than in 1996. Young people love taking risks and that is healthy. The more money they have, the more risks they take - the average disposable income of a 14-year-old is £10 a week."

"But they are also sensible and alert. There is a lot of evidence around that drugs are

not good for you and they are going to know about that."

Wittingly or unwittingly, adults are allowing young people to break the law not only in taking drugs but also over alcohol and gambling.

Around ten per cent of 14 to 15-year-olds buy alcoholic drinks from off-licences and a quarter of 15 to 16-year-olds say they buy alcohol in pubs.

At least half the lottery tickets and scratch cards bought by 14 to 15-year-olds were purchased by them and not by adults.

A quarter of 11-year-olds buy alcohol at home. Alcohol drinking at home is legal from the age of five.

Worry about school among young people is increasing, the survey shows. Nearly a quarter of boys say they worry about school compared with 18 per cent in 1992. 35 per cent of girls said they worry about school, up from a quarter.

Both boys and girls worry most about how they look.

Mr Balding said: "Worrying is OK. Without it people cannot cope. But some reach a point at which they need support to cope. Where people have support, from families for instance, their worry levels are lower."

RUPERT CORNWELL

'Half a century after the war that destroyed it, Germany is a normal country again'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5—



## Netcast logs on to baby at birth

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

CONGRATULATIONS IT'S an http://www.hoy! Just days after the world's first Internet wedding, thousands of curious virtual onlookers surfed over yesterday to watch a different sort of event: 40-year-old Elizabeth giving birth to Sean, her fourth child, who arrived at 10.40am (3.40pm British time) in a hospital in Orlando, Florida.

The birth itself was straightforward, and could start a trend in which live "Netcasts", with sound and vision, replace the now-traditional camcorder in the delivery room - though the prospect has appalled even some Internet enthusiasts.

In the event Sean's arrival was no more graphic or revealing than an episode of *ER*. After four and a half hours of labour, the narrator, Dr Walter Larimore of America's Health Network (AHN), the cable channel which ran the Netcast, announced: "Here comes Sean's head. He has a lot of hair on his head."

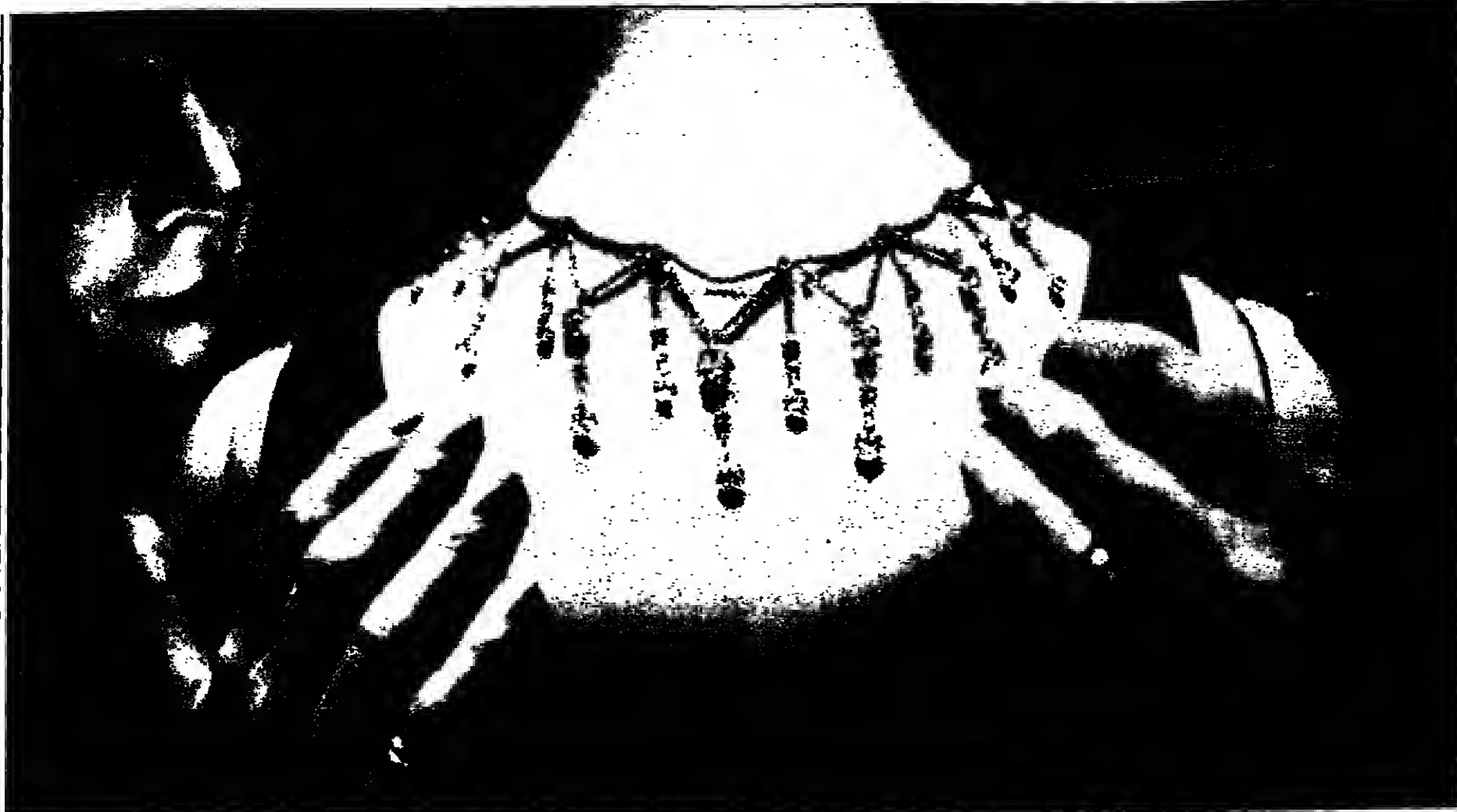
The dark-haired boy weighed 7lb 8oz, and joins three siblings aged 10, 11 and 14. His arrival was relayed from the delivery room by two cameras, one at Elizabeth's shoulder and another at her side.

More than 50,000 people tried to watch by logging on to the AHN website - five times more than its capacity - promptly crashing its computers.

It wasn't only the computers that found it too much to bear. Esther Dyson, the Internet pundit who usually evangelises everything to do with the global network, said she found the idea grotesque. "It's such a private, very intense moment. I don't think I'd want to do it," she said. Admitting that live netcasts might supplant camcorders in the delivery room, she added: "I hope not. I hope people have better things to do with their time."

Elizabeth, who preferred not to give her surname, said her intention was to help educate other women about childbirth.

Sean's was not the first live birth on the Internet - that happened in February, when Tammy Bates, 26, of Golden, Colorado gave birth to a son, Zachariah. However that only reached between 100 and 150 people, mainly online friends of Ms Bates and her husband.



Christie's displays a Cartier belle epoque diamond necklace yesterday with the dress worn by Audrey Hepburn in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'

Neville Elder

## Tories challenge Dobson over 'new' hospital beds

THE WAR on NHS waiting lists stepped up a gear yesterday as Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced that 2,000 extra hospital beds would be brought into use to help clear patient queues.

A further 1,100 beds planned for closure this year will be kept open and weekend and evening surgery would be introduced, Mr Dobson said. The extra capacity would be paid for from the £117m allocated to tackling waiting lists in the Budget.

He was challenged yesterday in the Commons by Ann Widdecombe, Tory health spokeswoman, who claimed Mr Dobson had already announced the 2,000 extra beds a fortnight ago. Opening an opposition debate on NHS waiting lists, she said: "For one wonderful moment I

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

thought we had 4,000 beds. I'm sure the public were meant to think that these were extra beds. But they aren't. They're the old beds."

Confusion over what was meant by a "new" bed extended to the press release issued yesterday by the Department of Health. It cited as an example "a new 23 surgical bed ward at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital". A spokeswoman for the hospital said the ward in question - which is a rehab ward - part of the trust, not a surgical ward - was mothballed two months ago. "I'm embarrassed. They have got it wrong," she said.

A second example given in the

press release - "a 16-bed ward opening with additional nursing staff on the Isle of Wight" - turned out to be one held in reserve for contingencies over the winter at St Mary's hospital on the island. A spokeswoman said: "We are not having to open a new ward. It was one we closed earlier in the year."

A third example, an admissions ward at Havering hospital, London, was also used during the winter. "It will now be used year round," said a spokeswoman.

Mr Dobson said more staff were being taken on and more treatments provided. A total of 850 schemes in health authorities round the country were listed in a report published yesterday entitled *More beds for the NHS*. Examples include an extra 300 general surgery

cases provided for in Sheffield for £261,000; 435 extra gynaecological operations in Burnley for £180,000; and 60 extra plastic surgery treatments in Wigan for £71,000.

He said the 850 schemes demonstrated the Government's commitment to achieving its election pledge to cut waiting lists to at least 100,000 below the figure it inherited. They have since risen by 143,742.

Tory health spokesman Alan Duncan yesterday said that Mr Dobson's announcement revealed the "shambles" and "panic" the Government was now in.

The British Medical Association said the move would go some way to redress the excessive bed cuts of recent years.

James Johnson, chairman of the consultants' committee, said bed

numbers had been cut as a cost-saving exercise and many wards were mothballed. "There seems to be a recognition that things have gone too far."

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts, said: "This is just the sort of thing that can be achieved when the NHS is given the resources that it needs. It proves that the NHS can really make productive use of additional cash when it is made available."

Mr Thornton warned that too much emphasis should not be put on waiting list numbers. "When you are in a queue you want to know how long you are going to be in it - not how many people are in it," he said.

## Female rep sues 'sexist' firm boss

BY AMANDA KELLY

A HIGH-FLYING £200,000 a year saleswoman was continually passed over for promotion while male colleagues climbed ahead because her boss "found women difficult to deal with", an industrial tribunal was told today.

Caroline Olds, 34, said she made millions of pounds for Computacenter during her nine years with the company but never made it above the position of accounts manager because of the "boys club" culture that dominated the workplace.

Ms Olds, who has already won a case for unfair dismissal after she was sacked in September 1996, is now claiming sexual discrimination and demanding more than £500,000 in compensation for loss of earnings.

South African-born Ms Olds, who is now unemployed and lives in Wapping, east London, also seeks compensation for breach of contract and unlawful deduction of wages from the company, Britain's biggest computer supplier.

Computacenter chief executive Mike Norris did not promote one woman to his management team from 1989 to 1996, she told the hearing in Croydon, south London.

"The management positions... are only accessible to the male staff - what some people call the boys' club," she said.

"They employed over 2,000 people with no women in senior management when I was dismissed, and I understand they now employ over 3,500 people with one woman in senior management."

Ms Olds, who has a three-month-old daughter, was dismissed after her three biggest clients - Mercury Communications, Reader's Digest and Robert Fleming, the merchant bank - asked for her to be removed from their accounts.

But her dismissal contrasted with the treatment of male colleagues, who were given senior management jobs or transferred to other accounts if they lost clients for the company.

"My dismissal has nothing to do with management style or lack of it. It is because I am female and Mike Norris finds women difficult to deal with," Ms Olds told the hearing.

She added: "If you were female your career had a ceiling... at the level of account manager."

The hearing continues today.

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# Cook's absence leaves minister to parade his ignorance

THE FOREIGN Secretary was spared the House of Commons yesterday as he was serving a lunch of sauerkraut and Wiener schnitzel to Helmut Kohl down at Cardiff during the European Union summit.

Mr Cook, like Mr Blair, does not find Parliament conducive to his idea of good government. It is an irritation he can do without and thank goodness he had the Euro bungee as an excuse to keep well away from London.

Cardiff is only an hour away, by fancy helicopter, and he could have taken questions in the Commons and been back in Cardiff in time to

serve tea and cucumber sandwiches to the big chiefs.

Mr Cook, one of the best parliamentary performers in opposition, has become one of the worst in government.

So it was left to his hapless minister of state, Tony Lloyd, to take the rap in the Commons for the continuing Sierra Leone saga.

He was protected, initially, by Dennis Skinner who turned his question on the report being prepared by Sir Thomas Legg into an attack on Michael Howard, accusing him of being like "a dog in the gutter returning to his own vomit".

It is true that the Howard attack, which is proving technically effective, does suffer from heavy baggage because of his close association with the last government and the arms to Iraq affair.

Nevertheless, Mr Lloyd's principal line of defence, when under attack from Mr Howard, was that he did not know about Sierra Leone; he was never briefed about Sierra Leone; he had never heard of Sierra Leone; he didn't know where Sierra Leone was; and as far as he was concerned he hoped he would never hear of Sierra Leone again.

"I didn't know anything," he

## THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

bleated plaintively. Mr Howard snapped: "Why not?" So Mr Lloyd pretended he did not hear the ques-

tion and we were no further forward.

It did vaguely occur to me that perhaps this was hardly the best line of defence for a minister. To admit so publicly that he has not got a clue about what is going on in his department does make you wonder why he is there at all.

Mr Skinner also mentioned "high-flying civil servants straight out of a Yes Minister". Here, unwittingly, I think he is on to something.

A Foreign Office minister in the last government, David Davis (C Hatteridge and Howden) once told me of his definition of a diplo-

mat: "An honest man paid to go abroad to lie for his country."

Nobody can deny that Sir John Kerr, about whom Mr Skinner was referring, is anything other than an honest man. But under Mr Cook's Foreign Office, it appears that he may have gone to the Select Committee to well, er... um... (you know what I'm thinking) for his Foreign Secretary.

In answer to another question, Mr Lloyd welcomed his new shadow, Cheryl Gillan, with the observation: "This will not be the last time we will cross swords." Somehow, on today's performance, I have a hunch that Mrs Gillan may be in her

role for a lot longer than Mr Lloyd.

By comparison, Doug Henderson and Derek Fatchett show signs of lasting the distance and going, one day, fairly near the top of the class.

Mr Henderson has a very authoritative booming voice, not dissimilar to Gordon Brown, his patron over at the Treasury. He has the ability to hold the attention of the House, rarely needing any notes on the Despatch Box.

Mr Fatchett will also be waiting hopefully by the telephone when our old friend Mr Reshuffle comes and taps them all on the shoulder in a few weeks' time.

# Beds promise deflects attack

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, yesterday rebuffed an attack by Ann Widdecombe on Labour's alleged broken promises on NHS waiting lists by promising more money for the health service in the Government's public spending review.

Ms Widdecombe, Mr Dobson's Tory shadow, accused Mr Dobson of "recycling" money for the NHS with his announcement, hours before yesterday's Commons debate, of an extra NHS 3,000 beds to get waiting lists down.

The announcement was clearly timed to take the edge off the Tory attack on Mr Dobson by Ms Widdecombe, who was appointed in the recent reshuffle by Conservative leader William Hague to harass Labour over its pledges to cut 100,000 off the waiting lists.

But Mr Dobson hit back by hinting strongly to MPs that there will be more money for health in July from the Chancellor's spending review. Speaking in the Commons last night, Mr Dobson said: "The NHS is under-resourced today. It needs more resources. Not just to get down the waiting lists, but to raise standards, and to give its hard working staff the resources they need."

Earlier, Mr Dobson announced that the NHS would get 2,000 new beds, in addition to a further 1,100 further beds which were planned to be closed this year, but will now be kept open.

The health secretary said a preliminary survey of the money spent so far on health care showed "more beds are being provided, more wards are being opened, more staff taken on, more operating

theatre times, more weekend and evening surgeries".

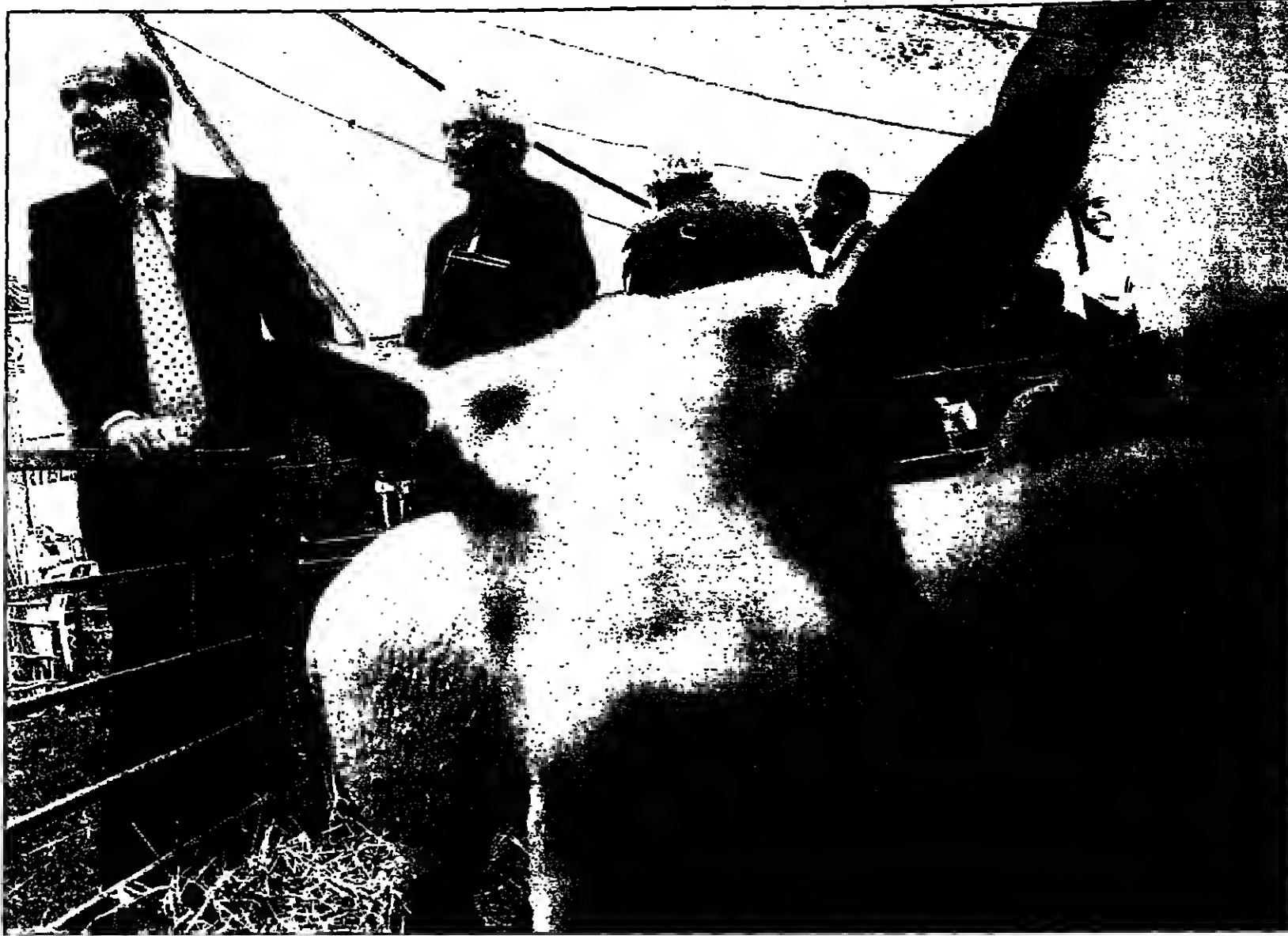
He said that the Tory's attack on Labour's first year of running the NHS was "barefaced cheek and amnesia". He highlighted the extra £2bn investment Labour had put into the NHS, above the amount proposed in the Tory spending plans. He also defended his decision to put money aside to prevent a winter crisis, saying: "I haven't heard a single person object to that priority."

Mr Dobson said that the extra 3,000 beds - a result of the £417m provided to tackle waiting lists - were the equivalent of six new district general hospitals. "That's at a time when we are actually getting on with building another six district general hospitals," he said.

Ms Widdecombe called on Mr Dobson to resign for failing in his promise to "save the NHS" and bring down waiting lists since Labour came to power. They are now at 1,297,700, 11.5 per cent higher than they were when Labour took office.

She called on him to "follow the example of all decent captains and go down with his ship".

Ms Widdecombe mocked yesterday's announcement that there would be 3,000 more beds, claiming the benefit of the extra money would be offset by existing ward and hospital closures. "I'm sure the general public were meant to think they were new beds. There is no evidence that this is a net gain. There isn't even any evidence that these 2,000 are a net gain," she said.



William Hague, Conservative Party leader, meets participants at the Three Counties Show in Malvern, Hereford and Worcester. John Voos

# Kaufman kills Smith with kindness

CHRIS SMITH, the Culture Secretary, went before a select committee yesterday to defend spending £1.4bn on the dome and other millennium projects.

In fact the reason for his appearance was almost incidental. This was Parliament as theatre. Mr Smith came face to face yesterday with Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Culture Select Committee, which only last week savaged Smith for focusing on "trivia and glamour".

A few seats from the hub of the action was Tory backbencher Michael Fabricant, who rubbed salt into the wound of last week's committee report, by calling on Mr Smith to resign. Mr Smith's PPS had in turn accused Mr Fabricant of leaking the offending report.

Several arts worthies, meanwhile, accused Mr Kaufman of leading a witchhunt against Mr Smith.

The stage was set for gladiatorial combat. Instead Mr Smith and Mr Kaufman displayed a politeness so icy it could have frozen Cool Britannia. "Secretary of State may I welcome you. We are grateful for your memorandum... If members have to go in and out during the meeting, there is no discourtesy to you intended."

Mr Smith responded in kind: "Thank you chairman. It's always a pleasure to appear before you."

But the atmosphere was shattered when Mr Fabricant

asked a question: "Secretary of State, it's very nice to see you here today." He said. "The feeling is entirely reciprocated." beamed Mr Smith. Then Mr Fabricant asked about the position of Christianity and religion generally in the dome.

Mr Smith asked him if he had read the document on the subject. He had not. Mr Smith then lost his carefully maintained cool: "I do wish sometimes that people like you, Mr Fabricant, would do your homework before asking questions."

"Charming," retorted Mr Fabricant and attempted to interrupt further. Mr Kaufman intervened to prevent any further departure from committee etiquette. "The Secretary of State is speaking," he reprimanded Mr Fabricant.

Mr Fabricant compounded his faux pas by asking the same question twice. A week of suppressed ire boiled over and the Culture Secretary gave vent: "I hate to point out that your intelligence might have missed my answer." Mr Fabricant was wounded: "I think, after rebukes on my intelligence, you don't do yourself service in this committee."

The spat was the only time Mr Smith departed from his brief to explain what the nationwide Millennium Festival will offer.

It will not, he said, be about "parties, booze and fireworks. It's about things like choral festivals, youth sports games, oral history projects and things that matter to local communities".

Public opinion was firmly behind the local projects and events which were being funded by the Millennium Commission, he added.

But he admitted that although feelings towards the dome had "changed a bit for the better", there was still considerable "scepticism" about the £738m centrepiece - 18 months before it is due to open. Fortunately it is still on schedule and within budget.

In a memo to MPs, Mr Smith said events in London would focus on Greenwich and along the banks of the River Thames, rather than the traditional arena of Trafalgar Square.

In Edinburgh the authorities were considering extending the traditional Hogmanay celebrations to last seven days.

# No vote is end of consensus on Ulster

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

THE TORIES and the Ulster Unionists will vote against the government Bill to allow the early release of terrorist prisoners from Northern Ireland jails, but senior Tory figures denied this would lead to the collapse of the bi-partisan approach to Ulster.

Their united opposition will not be enough to stop the legislation, but it will be a blow to Tony Blair's hopes of securing a consensus for the release of prisoners as part of the Good Friday peace agreement.

Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, said yesterday that the Opposition will not abstain but will vote against the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill.

"It is a deeply flawed Bill and we will vote against it," he said. But Mr Mackay denied it would end the bi-partisan approach to the Northern Ireland peace settlement. "It is our right to oppose," he said. "That is the duty of the Opposition."

The Ulster Unionist Party leader, David Trimble, has also hardened his stance on the Bill on the grounds that it provides insufficient safeguards over the release of prisoners without decommisioning taking place.

Mr Trimble has been under pressure from his MPs in the Commons to distance himself from the deal, but so far has supported the Government. Mr Blair has praised Mr Trimble's courage in standing up against the criticism from some hardliners in the loyalist community.

Mr Mowlem, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, upset the Tories by rejecting on Monday their amendments to reinforce the linkage between decommisioning of weapons and the release of prisoners.

Police and politicians yesterday hailed a decision by Orange men to stay out of flashpoint nationalist areas during a big parade in north Belfast on Friday.

Ms Mowlem said that organisers of the Tour of the North march showed a constructive attitude which would receive wide support.

**Anger at U-turn on cab laws**

THE Government was accused of an "astonishing U-turn" on the Bill to end the "scandal" of London's unlicensed cabs which could reduce the risk of rape.

Ministers were attacked by Friends of the Earth after opposing a Liberal Democrat move to use an opposition debate next week to press ahead with the Bill, which the Tory MP Eric Forth has been blocking. Ministers fear that advancing the Bill, and another private member's measure, would increase

**THE HOUSE**

pressure to grant time for the Bill to ban hunting.

**'Bill in chaos'**

JOHN Redwood, Tory industry spokesman, said the Government was in chaos over the Competition Bill after

ministers tabled 16 pages of amendments. Most are aimed at giving business a breathing space before the new competition tests come into force.

**Today in the Commons**

- Northern Ireland Questions with Mr Mowlem
- Prime Minister's Question Time
- Second day of Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill
- Adjournment Debate: Epilepsy (Stephen Twigg - Lab, Enfield Southgate)

# Labour MP faces discipline

LABOUR'S DISCIPLINARY machine has finally rolled against Tommy Graham, the Renfrewshire West MP suspended last year as the party struggled against allegations of sleaze in the west of Scotland.

Mr Graham is charged under a party rule that no member "shall engage in a sustained course of conduct prejudicial to... the party".

But the MP said he was confident that he would be vindicated, and complained of

rigging of local Labour membership lists. Harry Revie, Mr Graham's campaign manager in the general election, was also suspended from the party.

Labour headquarters confirmed that the National Executive Committee had concluded Mr Graham "has a case to answer" under party rules. Mr Graham said yesterday he was unaware of the exact charges against him and was looking forward to getting in front of the NCC in order to clear his name.

**BY STEPHEN GOODWIN**

"death by a thousand leaks".

Labour suspended Mr Graham from party membership last year following the suicide of the former Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, who left a note accusing his fellow MP of having orchestrated a smear campaign against him.

An internal inquiry cleared Mr Graham of any part in his colleague's suicide but then moved on to claims concerning

**Millennium Dome transport**

MORE THAN half of visitors to the Millennium Dome are expected to use London's Underground's Jubilee line extension for the final part of their journey, Peter Mandelson told Eric Pickles (Con, Brentwood and Ongar).

**United Nations peacekeepers**

DR GEORGE Reid, the defence minister, told Tony Baldry (Con, Banbury) there are 312 UK troops engaged in UN peacekeeping.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Police boundary changes**

THE GOVERNMENT plans to change the boundaries of the Metropolitan Police Districts later this year, to make them more coterminous with the 32 London boroughs, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told Ian Taylor (Con, Esher and Walton).

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# Teenage pregnancy rate at new high

BRITAIN'S TEENAGE pregnancy figures, among the highest in Europe, have reached more than one in 10 in some inner cities, according to a new report.

The already worrying national figures are masking a wide variation in teenage conception rates, warns *Getting Real*, a report by the Fabian Society.

In the inner city Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority, 104 in 1,000 15 to 19-year-olds become pregnant, compared with 34 in 1,000 in affluent areas, such as Kingston and Richmond.

The report concludes that Britain is failing to meet the sexual health needs of its teenagers.

"By a combination of inadequate sex education - at home and at school - poor access to confidential advice and a lack of openness and honesty in society about sexual issues, young people continue to embark on their sexual relationships ill-equipped with the necessary information and skills to manage their sexual health," it says.

"What we may have in some of these inner city areas is a school that refuses to tell young people where to go for advice, despite having an excellent sex advice centre in the next street," said Alison Hadley,

BY PIPPA CRERAR

national policy officer at Brook Advisory Centres and author of the report.

"What is needed is a nationally co-ordinated approach at Government level between education and health, to ensure that at every level down there's that co-ordination of information for young people as well as access to services," Ms Hadley added.

Until 1995, the teenage conception rate had been in decline, due to free contraception, legal abortion and an unprecedented expansion by health authorities of youth advisory services.

But the rate has risen significantly since 1996. Following the 1995 pill scare, many teenagers stopped taking the pill and many more never started.

The percentage of clients choosing the pill at Brook Advisory Centres in 1996 dropped by 32 per cent among the under-16s and 25 per cent among the 16 to 19-year-olds.

Ms Hadley pointed out that among Britain's under-16 age group the teenage pregnancy rate is 10 times that of their Dutch counterparts, despite the more pro-active

provision of contraceptive and sexual advice in the Netherlands.

International research has shown that countries with open attitudes to sex and sexuality have the lowest rates of teenage conceptions.

The difference of attitudes towards first-time sex is particularly striking among boys, with 56 per cent of Dutch boys citing love and commitment, compared with only 14 per cent of British boys.

"We've let young people down for a very long time and we've got to grow up and deal with this properly," Ms Hadley said.

"The Dutch example shows that when it's not treated as naughty and sinful and embarrassing, but with a more holistic approach as part of relationships, the results are very encouraging. That should lead to much less abuse in relationships and much better communication," she added.

The report recommends a more consistent provision of services across the UK, with sexual health becoming a priority in the public health White Papers for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Currently it has only been included in Scottish and Welsh Green Papers.



Sarah Jeffries, who was 18 years old when she became pregnant with her daughter Mia, now aged 13 months. Andrew Burman

## 'There was no question of an abortion'

SARAH JEFFRIES, from Peckham, south-east London, was 18 when she became pregnant with her baby daughter Mia. She admits that what sex education she received at school was fairly lacking. What she learnt came from talking to her friends, though it might not have been the right information.

"I was on the Pill at the time [I became pregnant] but I knew I had missed a couple. I didn't realise I was pregnant for three months and it did come as a great surprise, but there was no question of me having an abortion because I thought it was my responsibility to have the baby and now I love it."

"I have had things quite easy. She's been very good and I haven't had the screaming and sleepless nights that a lot of teenage mums go through. I've also been lucky because my boyfriend has been very good about things. He read the pregnancy books in more detail than I did."

"However, there were a couple of times when it would have been nice to have been able to do what we wanted when we wanted like, say, going out for a drive at 3 o'clock in the morning which, of course, you can't do when you've got a child."

"I don't think I missed out on being a teenager really. I feel I missed out more when I was younger, with my mum dying when I was nine years old. I had to look after my brother, who was only five."

"But I was enjoying my work as a receptionist at the Hospitality Inn in Piccadilly when I got pregnant and would like to have gone on and got pro-

BY MATTHEW BRACE AND CATHERINE BOULLAY

moted and worked my way up in the hotel industry."

"Now I'm not planning to go back to work until Mia is a little older. She will go to nursery at age three or four. My dad was very supportive of me. He has travelled a lot and done lots of things and I think he would have liked me to have done a bit more before I got pregnant, but he was very good and understanding. He loves Mia to bits."

"My boyfriend's mum has also been very helpful - she's been about the only person I have had who could help out with babysitting to give me a night off."

"I only get £11.45 a week [in] child benefit, which is nothing. A big pack of nappies is £11.99, so it has been great to have the support of my father and my boyfriend's mother. She bought Mia's cot and when I was working in the hotel I got a tax rebate of £200, which bought the pram."

"I get a shock when I see some of these 11-year-olds in the paper having children. When I was that age I was at home playing with my Barbie dolls. I didn't know anything about having children."

"We had some sex education at school but for most of us at that age it was just a big laugh. You had a bit of a giggle and then wondered what you were having for lunch."

"The only real worry I had when Mia was born was that I was a smoker and I had to give up smoking when I knew I was going to give birth to her."

## D'Oyly Carte is refused backing

THE D'OYLY CARTE light opera company will cut its touring activities and stage money-spinning London performances in order to survive after the Arts Council refused it permanent backing. It was announced yesterday.

Sir Michael Bishop, its chairman, said the D'Oyly Carte efficiency embarrassed more expensive opera companies which received extensive Arts Council support.

The D'Oyly Carte has no permanent theatre, company or orchestra and is based in Wolverhampton. It leases its costumes to amateur productions and also benefits from income from the music rights to Gilbert and Sullivan works.

It gained a one-off Arts Council grant of £250,000 to support last year's touring season, but simultaneous Parliamentary debates in its support in the Lords and Commons

BY JACKIE BURDON

earlier this year failed to change the council's mind about permanent support.

Sir Michael said: "It is quite stunning to us that... they did not give any funds to any company that wasn't already on the list of Arts Council backed companies."

Since it was reconstituted 11 years ago after its last financial crisis, the D'Oyly Carte has performed two 12-week seasons a year, or 175 performances, with week-long residencies around the country. But now it has teamed up with established promoter Raymond Gubbay to announce eight performances of *The Mikado* at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from 31 August. Regional runs will be confined to two performances at big concert halls, perhaps as few as 50 performances a year, Sir Michael said.

## JOHN CURTICE

'Blair is pursuing a strategy that maximises his chances of a second victory. Hague has yet to find a credible way to respond'

—THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4—

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# Yesterday was No Car Day (as the picture shows)

THE RAC yesterday launched its own electronic traffic warning device, at a price of just £20, aimed at the thousands of drivers who ignored public transport yesterday on National Car Free Day.

There was no noticeable reduction in traffic levels yesterday, say motoring organisations. And with car numbers expected to rise every year, experts say motorists may be forced to resort to "traffic-busting" equipment to evade jams.

The RAC's device, only four inches across and named Traffic Alert, uses coloured lights to tell drivers of an impending jam - and also indicates how long any delay might be. Motorists can be guided off busy highways by a telephone operator, who can be contacted by a mobile phone link which also pinpoints where the car is.

The system uses a network of 4,000 sensors placed at the roadside to measure traffic speed every few minutes.

However, the Automobile Association, the RAC's rival, claimed that the new product was merely an "upgrade" of the RAC's telephone service. "Our system uses satellite technology to locate the driver and is already on the market," said Peter Johnson, the AA's managing director.

BY RANDEEP RAMESH  
Transport Correspondent

However, the AA's more sophisticated tracking device costs more than £500 - 25 times more expensive than the RAC's Traffic Alert. "We are working on a similar model ourselves," said Mr Johnson.

Figures show that 1.2 million cars - nearly a tenth of the total number on the road - got caught in traffic every day.

Environmental groups said that both the RAC and the AA had not "grasped the nettle of car-use". "It is not going to help pollution if people still use their cars. All it means is that drivers use country lanes as rat runs to avoid motorway congestion," said Lynn Sloman, a director of green think-tank Transport 2000.

With no measures to encourage people to use their cars less, experts were not surprised that National Car Free Day saw no drop in traffic levels. The AA reported "no difference in cars on the roads around the country".

However, the Environmental Transport Association, which sponsors the event, said the motoring clubs did not understand the message. Andrew Davies, head of the ETA, said: "What we wanted to do was to show that there is no alternative - yet - for many journeys."



The A38 Aston Express way during the evening rush hour on National Car Free Day. Motoring organisations reported no noticeable reduction in traffic. Gavin Pegg

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## Spurned lover 'stole photos for blackmail'

AN ENTREPRENEUR tried to blackmail his former lover by threatening to expose her in Sunday newspapers after she started a new relationship with a wealthy businessman, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

The man - referred to as Mr X - stole "embarrassing" photographs of his former partner and threatened to publicise details of her new relationship by using the pictures as well as a number of stolen notes and letters, said Graham Blower, for the prosecution.

"He became bitter and twisted and decided to get money off her for all he believed he had done for her in the past, although in law he knew he had no right or claim against her."

Mr X, who is in his fifties and was originally from the Midlands, denies a conspiracy to blackmail.

Mr Blower said that the middle-aged woman, Mrs A, had lived with Mr X for a number of years. He had given her financial assistance and gifts, and was, in the early stages of the relationship, a man of considerable means.

She also gave him help, although it was not necessarily financial, Mr Blower added. For instance, when he was involved in an accident, she looked after him. But the relationship went sour and Mrs A started a relationship with another man, referred to as Mr B.

By this time, Mr X was struggling financially and saw his situation as being the fault of everyone but himself, according to the prosecution.

Mr Blower said that Mr B had a high-powered job and gave Mrs A £50,000 as a gift, together with a note, and that the note was later used by Mr X, or a second man acting as an agent, to blackmail the couple.

Personal items, including keepsakes and postcards showing the nature of the relationship, were stolen from Mrs A after a screw was removed from a window to gain entry to her home.

The couple also received a number of calls at their homes and workplaces.

"The tone was that unless they paid a sum of money, items stolen from them - photos of her on holiday, embarrassing photos to her and her reputation - would be released to the Sunday papers," Mr Blower said.

"Much play was made about what would happen to their reputations. You may think this would cause anyone to think they were being blackmailed," he told the jury.

Mrs A was told that she could buy the items back for £3,000, he alleged.

The court was told that Mr

BY PAT CLARKE

B was also sent a fax entitled "The Internal Triangle", which complained of Mr B's behaviour.

He was also allegedly rung at work by a man saying he had evidence that Mr B used prostitutes. The caller ended by saying: "I have every intention of exploiting it."

A meeting was arranged at a McDonald's restaurant in London. But by now the price being demanded for the return of the stolen property had dropped to £2,000, the jury was told. Police had been alerted, and Mr X and a second man were arrested.

Mr Blower said that the second man had admitted being involved in blackmailing the couple.

He went on: "What it comes down to is, was he doing it on his own or was he working as an agent for Mr X? Requests of money may have been made, but did it go as far as blackmail?"

Mrs A told the court that Mr X had said he wanted money from her and that he was going to embarrass her.

In April 1997 she received a call at work from a man she did not know, who said: "We have some material - the Sunday papers are very interested." The man said it was a topless photograph, she said.

"I received phone calls the whole day - increasingly threatening. I was in a very shocked state."

"All the items sent to me by Mr B should have been in a cupboard in my house. I checked the cupboard and realised that not only were some items missing, but that they had been sifted through and things carefully removed which might seem salacious."

Mr Blower said: "It was the breakdown of a relationship, and Mr X embarked on a course to get money out of her or, if not her, a man with whom she had started a relationship and who he blamed."

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## Billie-Jo jury visits scene of death

BY LOUISE JURY

THE JURY in the Billie-Jo Jenkins murder trial yesterday visited the scene where she was bludgeoned to death.

The eight men and four women were driven to Hastings, East Sussex, to see where the 13-year-old was beaten with an 18-inch metal spike in February last year.

Her foster father, Sion Jenkins, 4, is accused of murdering the teenager on the patio of their family home, but denies the charge.

After the killing, Lois Jenkins, Billie-Jo's foster mother, returned to live in the semi-detached Victorian house with four natural daughters. The left the £100,000 home yesterday during the jury's visit and two policemen stood guard on the steps outside.

The judge and barristers in the case, being heard at Lewes Crown Court, dispersed with him as they followed the jurors round the house.

The jurors were allowed to take a short break as they observed the patio, adjacent dining room and neighbouring rooms.

After 55 minutes, they left to visit the home of Denise Franklin, a neighbour who was asked to come and help by Sion Jenkins on the afternoon Billie-Jo died.

A small group of reporters was allowed to view the patio and back garden.

All the curtains at the front and the rear of the house were closed. A child's scooter stood on the top of the steps leading on the side gates to the back garden, and a swing was visible further up the steeply sloping garden.

The final part of the jury's visit to the scene involved re-creating a journey which the prosecution claims Mr Jenkins took to distance himself from the scene. He is alleged to have spent 15 minutes driving in a circuitous route to a local do-it-yourself store to buy white spirit, even though he had some at home and had taken no money with him.

When he returned home, one of his natural daughters, 10-year-old Lottie, was first into the house and found Billie-Jo's bludgeoned body.

Mr Jenkins dialled 999 for an ambulance saying that Billie-Jo had fallen and hurt her head, before calling Mrs Franklin. She has told the court how she found Billie-Jo lying face down in a pool of blood.

The trial continues today.

# Special classes for gifted pupils



Simon Phung, 10, and his classmates in a superstream maths lesson at Grove Junior School, near Birmingham, yesterday

Dan Chung

MASTERCLASSES for gifted children will start in September, the Government announced yesterday.

Covering topics such as fractals - a complex branch of maths effective for modelling the natural world - for 10-year-olds, pilot classes in 10 specialist secondary schools will cater for up to 500 pupils.

They will be able to study the arts, languages, maths and science - all in addition to regular schooling. Lessons, which also include video-conferencing and statistical investigations, will be held in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays.

By 2002, the Government hopes 450 specialist schools will offer masterclasses to gifted children - defined by civil servants as the top 5 per cent of the population.

Pupils, mostly aged eight to 14, will not have to take a test to join a masterclass. Teachers will do the choosing, although parents may nominate them.

The £200,000 programme will not push pupils ahead in the national curriculum but will try to explore new topics and encourage lateral thinking. And budding linguists will not be allowed to study languages they are learning at school. Most of the pupils will come from neighbouring schools, not the specialist colleges themselves.

Schools minister Estelle Morris said: "In the past we have underestimated the needs of this group. We have tended to think they will achieve anyway, whatever happens to them. Parents have often felt their children have been ignored."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the Government must ensure schools did not poach able pupils.

"Steps must be taken to extend the scheme beyond the pilot as quickly as possible. It cannot afford to be regarded

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

just as an exclusively elite scheme for a few schools and a few pupils."

Ms Morris also announced the biggest expansion of the specialist schools scheme since the election. There will be 28 new technology colleges, eight language colleges, nine sports colleges and six arts colleges, bringing the total to 330 by September. All will get public money, matched by private funding, to improve facilities.

Set up by the Conservatives, such schools must now share their expertise with other schools and the community.

Ms Morris said they were a way of modernising comprehensive schools and offering parents more choice.

While ministers are opposed to selection by ability, critics have attacked the Government's decision to allow them to select 10 per cent of pupils by "aptitude" rather than general academic ability.

Theresa May, shadow schools minister, said: "They say they are against selection but they are going to allow selection of pupils for specialist schools. How do they think the children will be selected for masterclasses if not for ability?"

The 10 masterclass schools are: Brooke West City Technology College, Croy, Northamptonshire; Cowes High School, Isle of Wight; Dixons City Technology College, Bradford, West Yorkshire; Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, Lancashire; Lincoln School of Science and Technology, Elliott School, London; Haydon School, Pinner, north-west London; St Thomas More School, Blaydon, and Biddick School, Washington, both Tyne and Wear; and Theale Green Community School, Reading, Berkshire.

## Teachers need pay incentives, says union

BY JUDITH JUDD

A FAST TRACK for teachers and better promotion prospects are vital if the recruitment crisis in the profession is to be solved, says a report published today.

But management consultancy firm Coopers & Lybrand, author of the study, rejects the idea of performance related pay. The findings come as the question of teachers' pay and conditions is high on the political agenda. Ministers have invited new education action zones to tear up teachers' contracts.

Next month the profession's employers meet to discuss proposals for big cuts in teachers' holidays in return for more pay.

New superteachers, who will be paid up to £30,000, will start work from September but their numbers will be small.

The report, commissioned by the National Union of Teachers (NUT), argues that a new structure is needed. At present, most teachers reach the top of the classroom teacher salary scale (£22,000) in their late twenties.

"The motivation of teachers in mid-career is not helped by a structure which means that they have already been on their maximum for 10 years and could be there for another 20."

"To have a structure in which such a high proportion of

the workforce reach their earning potential so early seems to be potentially damaging to motivation and retention."

Promotion, it says, is largely a matter of chance and being in the right place at the right time because no national criteria exist for awarding points above the basic scale.

Outstanding primary school teachers may have big responsibilities for the curriculum and yet receive no extra salary.

The report recommends fast-track promotion and a new national framework of professional standards by which all teachers would be judged.

Performance related pay is rejected because payments would depend on the perfor-

mance of children and other teachers and on local authority or government-imposed targets.

Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, said: "The improvements the Government

is committed to in education include the need for more teachers."

"This report says that we have a salary structure which doesn't encourage recruitment and retention."

"After five years there is a growing gap between what a teachers earns and what they would have earned in a different occupation. After ten, it is even wider."

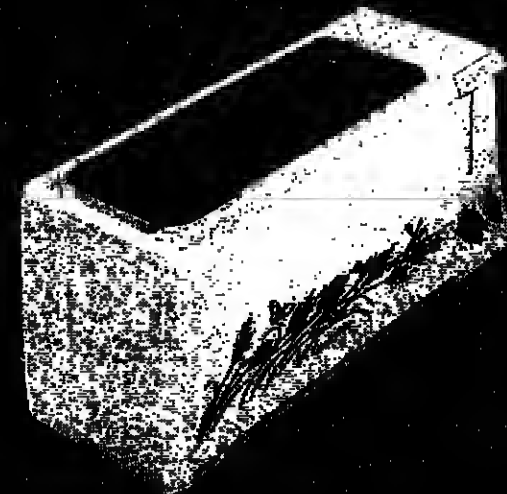
He was delighted with the re-

jection of performance related pay.

"It has no place in schools where teachers work as a professional team and each plays a part in the child's development," he said.

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# Mandela: All I want is War and Peace

HE IS looking forward to reading *War and Peace*, listening to classical music and dandling grandchildren on his knee, but Nelson Mandela has unfinished business to attend to as he enters the final leg of his political career: to remind world leaders that South Africa will still need their support after he steps out of political life.

Mr Mandela was officially in Cardiff to meet European leaders attending the European Council meeting and receive the Freedom of the City. As he arrived at the summit, the President was greeted by cheering crowds and children in national dress. Welsh choirs sang the South African national anthem and British hymns.

President Mandela, accompanied by his partner, Graca Machel, sat with a small girl on his knee as speeches were made granting him the freedom of Cardiff. He said the support of the Welsh people during the apartheid era had been a great inspiration. "Action on such a scale could only flow from strong support by ordinary Welsh people on the ground. So we knew that the Wales anti-apartheid movement spoke for a people who cared for our freedom as well their own."

On Monday, he paid a courtesy call on the Queen. Next week, he will meet the Pope. But Mr Mandela insisted his invitation to Cardiff by Tony Blair was simply a case of people showing respect for his old age, and did not reflect any particular qualities on his part. He said people wished to pay tribute to South Africa's achievement, not to him as an individual, but they could not invite the whole country. The adulation which greeted him

BY ANDREA WEISS AND FRAN ABRAMS in Cardiff

every time he stepped out of his car or hotel spoke differently. Mr Mandela, who will soon turn 80, is doing the rounds of world leaders. Part of his message is to thank those who supported South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy, and to remind them that "poverty and hunger are the single most dangerous threat to peace and stability in the world". Another broad objective is to chivy along a yet-to-be-finalised trade agreement between South Africa and the European Union, which is being negotiated in Brussels.

The trade talks, aimed at making it easier for South Africa to export fruit and vegetables to Britain, should be complete by the autumn, European leaders said yesterday. Talks on cutting trade tariffs on South African goods have been going on since 1995.

Next year, when South Africa is due to hold its second democratic election, Mr Mandela will step down to make way for his successor Thabo Mbeki, the man he says is already running South Africa's affairs while he acts as a ceremonial figurehead. The Deputy President took over as leader of the African National Congress at its December congress last year and his presidency is assured, along with an ANC victory.

At a breakfast briefing for the South African media in Cardiff yesterday, Mr Mandela said: "I will be 81 [next year]. I do not think South Africa should be led by an octogenarian. It requires somebody younger, who can think, who can focus on prob-

lems." He said he would continue to be a member of the ANC and "carry out any instructions my president may issue". For the rest, he would be "unemployed", he joked.

Mr Mandela said he looked forward to reading novels and biographies and listening to classical music, adding that he had instructed South Africa's High Commissioner, Cheryl Carolus, to buy him some books. Ms Carolus said Mr Mandela was a man of very fixed tastes, so his request was not hard to satisfy. She said they had acquired *War and Peace*, and he also wanted to reread the classics which he had read before his 27-year imprisonment, which he could now enjoy with the benefit of "hindsight and a lifetime of experience".

Ms Carolus, who has publicly stated she does not wish to have children, added: "And one other thing. The President has been harassing people to have more grandchildren." Mr Mandela threatened to fire her unless she agreed to have a family.

The mood at the briefing was light and affectionate. At one point the Foreign Minister, Alfred Nzo, rested his hand on Mr Mandela's knee as he emphasised a point about the long-awaited trade agreement with the European Union. When Ms Carolus broke in to counter his humility about his reception in Cardiff, he dismissed her praise, saying: "This is a daughter talking about a father."

She had said that Mr Mandela had the world's respect because he represented "the best of what human beings can be under the most difficult of circumstances". Everyone in Cardiff seemed to share her sentiment.



Nelson Mandela with Emma Williams (six), granddaughter of Cardiff's Lord Mayor

Rob Stratton

## Turkey sees EU hopes dashed

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE FRAUGHT relationship between the European Union and Turkey if anything worsened yesterday, as the Cardiff summit failed both to explicitly recognise Turkey as a candidate for membership, and to start any progress towards releasing 375m Ecu (225m pounds) owed Ankara under existing agreements.

The ostensible culprit - usual - was Greece, who strenuously resisted all efforts by the British presidency to mend some of the fences broken at last December's summit in Luxembourg, when the EU refused to accept Turkey as a fully fledged candidate.

Thus an attempt failed to have Ankara classified in the final communiqué alongside the other 11 countries, with whom accession negotiations have either begun or been promised. Instead, Turkey has again to make do with vague wordings, which in reality mark no advance from Luxembourg where it was described as "eligible" for membership.

On the financial front too deadlock is complete. The British had hoped to slip in either a smaller financial payment to Turkey, or a clear instruction to the Commission in Brussels to look for ways of finding the money which side-stepped a Greek veto. But to no avail. The Commission will now merely "reflect" on how to "underpin" the EU's "strategy" that would prepare Turkey for membership.

The dispute now threatens to poison other key areas of EU policy. In retaliation at the Greek veto, France struck out a reference to the hope of quick progress in entry negotiations with the batch of six countries - among them Cyprus - which started on 31 March. Greece, naturally, is very keen on the earliest possible entry of the Greek Cypriot state, but France has several times urged that talks with Nicosia be suspended until the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot parts of the island are reunited.

But irritation is not only directed at Athens. "The Turks haven't done their cause any good," one Brussels official said last night of Ankara's refusal to attend last month's planned EU-Turkey talks. Moreover, if Greece is in a minority of one on the matter of releasing the promised funds for Turkey, its visceral hostility to Turkish membership of the Union is shared - albeit more quietly - by Germany and other countries.

## Blair trumpets 'new era' of European unity

TONY BLAIR heralded the start of a new era of co-operation in Europe last night as Britain's presidency of the European Union drew to a close.

At the end of the Cardiff summit the Prime Minister claimed credit for strong progress on a range of issues that would help to bridge the yawning gap between Europe and its citizens. Leaders had mapped out timetables for achieving economic reform, greater decentralisation and strengthen-

BY FRAN ABRAMS AND KATHERINE BUTLER in Cardiff

ing of the single market, balanced by much closer co-operation on jobs, crime, drugs and the environment.

But the summit also marked a turning point in Britain's relationship with Europe, Mr Blair suggested.

"The long years in which it was always Britain in disagreement with everyone else

are over. We stand up for our national interests as strongly as everyone else, but we recognise that these interests are best achieved in partnership with others in the EU. For those familiar with relations between Britain and the rest of Europe going back to two years ago, it's a pretty different situation."

He said Britain's EU partners were now firmly behind the need for modernisation, flexibility and the "third way" to prosperity and job creation.

Agreement on his economic and political reform agenda will give the Prime Minister political leverage at home, as he prepares the British public for entry into the single currency.

Mr Blair said that sound economic policies would ensure that the pound was strong enough to survive outside of the monetary union but added, "the question is whether it is in our interest to be in it".

Jacques Santer, the European Commission's president,

said that Europe now had a constructive future with no animosity from anyone. "Europe is a pole of stability in the world," he said, adding that Britain and Europe were on the same wavelength.

Despite the summit's successes, Nelson Mandela left Cardiff without securing a new free trade agreement between South Africa and the European Union, although a deadline of this autumn was set. And the leaders failed to mend their dif-

ferences on the future financing of the EU. The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, demanded a big cut in Bonn's contributions to the EU purse, while others said that increases in spending would be needed to pay for EU expansion into eastern Europe.

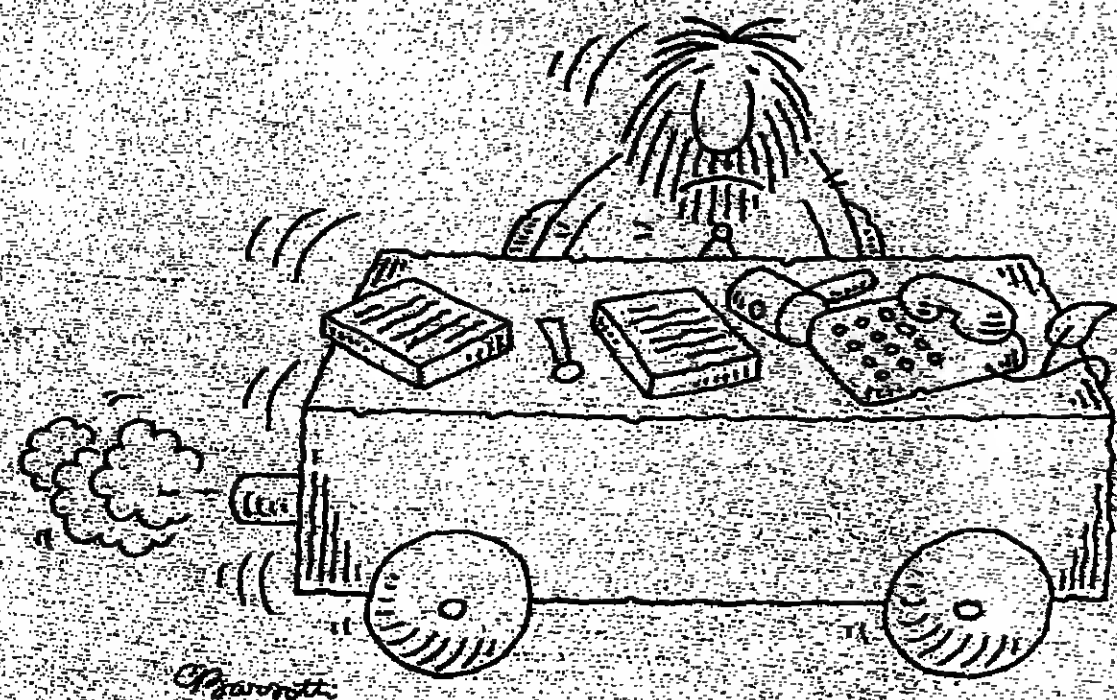
The other glaring failure of the summit was the absence of progress on Turkey, which casts renewed doubt over plans to admit the divided island of Cyprus to the European Union.

### Euro perks row

TONY BLAIR won backing in Cardiff yesterday for a war on the lavish expenses and perks enjoyed by members of the European Parliament.

The Prime Minister conveyed the concern of heads of government about high living MEPs to the European Parliament President Jose Maria Gil Robles. Mr Gil Robles has now been given until the end of the year to come forward with proposals for reform.

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Turkey  
sees EU  
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# Serbs show off spoils of 'holy war'

WELCOMELADIES and gentlemen, the Yugoslav Army Officers' club, to its red and pink rose (unpruned), to its spaciousness (unmowed) and to a thousand and one questions (unanswered). Let's start with the Koran.

The 1st army captain - four stars on his shoulders and a uniform neatly pressed you could cut your finger on it - didn't mention the Prophet's message from God when he opened an exhibition of heavy machine-guns, rocket-propelled grenades, snipers' rifles and anti-tank weapons to us yesterday, all supposedly seized from ethnic Albanian "terrorists" in Kosovo.

But here, sandwiched between Kalashnikov rifles and a lot of landmines were two cardboard boxes packed with red-cored Albanian-language Korans.

"We were brought with the weapons on the terrorists' muletrain," the captain explained. "We found them in the mountains along with the gunster we ambushed the terrorists."

One side of the boxes in Arabic script was written "in the name of God, the most merciful" - the first words of the Koran - and the legend: "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd, Holy King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, his custodianship of Mea and Medina as his sorquet and there was no dot of the boxes' provenance. Indeed, each Koran was labelled "PO Box 3561, Medina", so in Arabic was the address to which the Saudis had orally sent the Korans: "Al Muslim School, Midan (Sare) Aumi Rastum, Tirana, Albania" and a telephone number 00355-4223701.

The implication was obvious: if the guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army were imposing Islam along with their guns from Albania, that a militant religion was being smuggled into Serbia, courtesy of the Alban world.

Along one might have added in a lot of German uniforms regular Bundeswehr combat jackets and trousers by the ten - and at least one very expensive anti-tank missile. There were Chinese-made Kalashnikov rifles by the score, new American Thompson sub-machine guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition. But there was another, even

BY ROBERT FISK  
in Pristina

more intriguing exhibit: the documents and cameras of a Norwegian journalist called Pal Prestsdal who was - according to the Yugoslav army - trapped in an ambush of KLA arms smugglers two days ago before escaping, wounded, back into Albania.

A letter, undated, identified him as an employee of Norway's Bergen TV2 channel and a journalists' union card showed his age as 35 and his address as Hans Hasbunsveg 18, 1340 Bekkestva, Norway.

His Nikon camera - its film still undeveloped, according to the Yugoslav army captain - and mobile phone stood on the same shelf, next, of course, to yet more captured weapons.

Some of the equipment was pathetic: the pile of clothing that had belonged to the ambushed guerrillas, for example, torn shirts and old trousers, dirty socks and plastic carrier bags.

Within 20 minutes, several copies of the Koran had been moved from their boxes and laid between a bunch of heavy machine-guns near the door - subtly is not one of the Serb military's most prominent characteristics.

But they were real enough. So was their original recipient, Sabri Kogi at the Muslim school in Tirana.

So what was the story? In both Bosnia and Afghanistan, I have seen weapons arriving by the plane and truckload for Muslim fighters, often accompanied by modest supplies of the Holy Koran, invariably printed in Saudi Arabia.

In the Muslim world, they say the Saudis are happy to pay for weapons to be used in a Muslim cause and the dispatch of a few Korans is part of their deal to keep the guns running.

Could these Korans be part of a similar consignment? We called the Tirana telephone number printed on the box. "We have imported a million Korans from Saudi Arabia," a voice said from the Muslim school in Albania. He wouldn't give his name. "But this is just Serb propaganda. You know their game."

And it is true that you can buy Albanian-language Korans in Pristina. So why bring them over the mountains on a vulnerable mule train?

Then there was the Norwegian journalist. Norway's Channel 2 television station



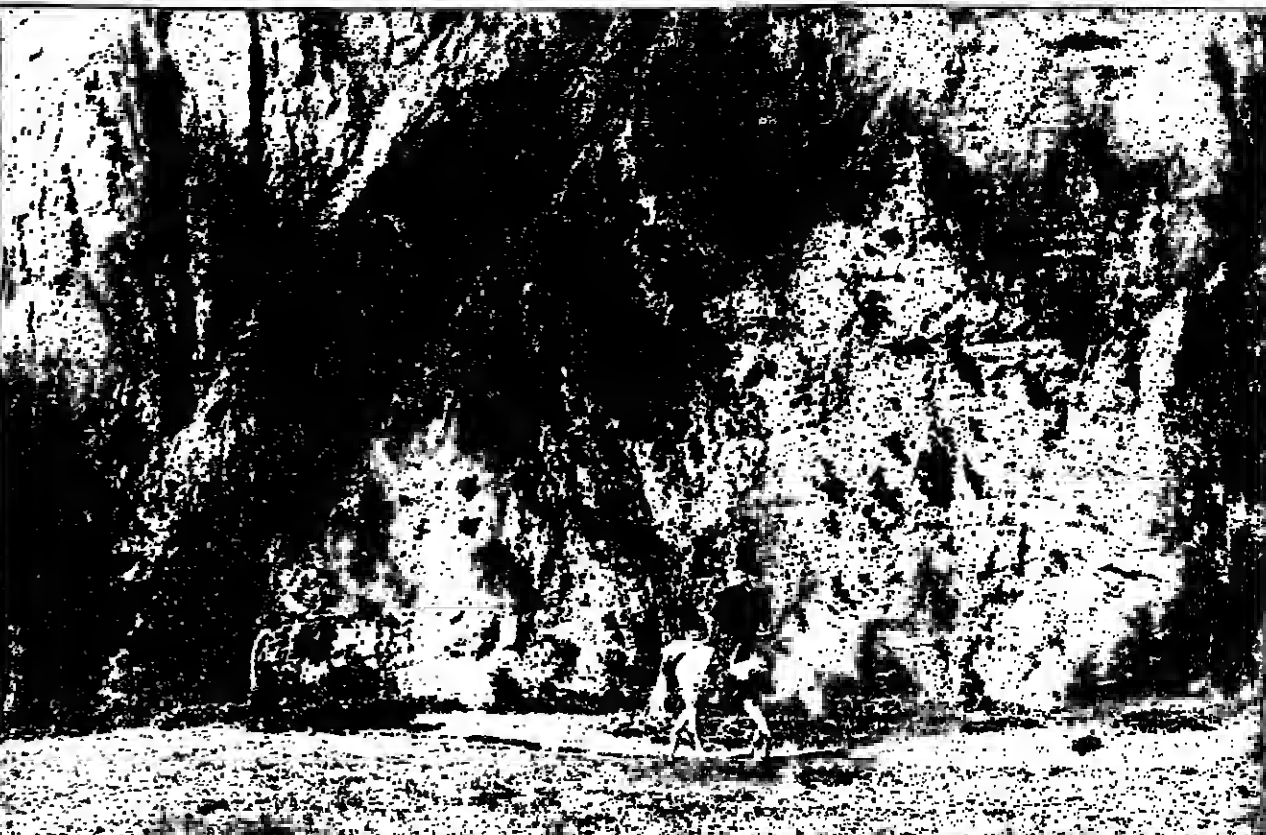
acknowledged Mr Prestsdal had been a freelance reporter for them in Bosnia but was not currently representing them. A Norwegian report said later that the missing journalist had been "wounded by grenade fragments" in a battle between KLA guerrillas and Serb forces on the Albania-Kosovo border and was now being treated by the KLA at an unknown location.

An interesting haul for the Yugoslav army then, with journalists supposedly humiliated

by the Serbs - along with the KLA - and a mighty unpleasant suggestion that the Saudis were behind the guerrilla army demanding independence for Kosovo.

The Saudis are among Washington's principal allies in the Arab world. Are they paying for these weapons? Did America know?

How soon will it be, I wonder, before we are told that the CIA, no less, is behind the sudden flowering of Kosovo's Albanian army?



Armed men making their way through a mountain pass on the Albania-Kosovo border - a KLA supply route AP

## Moscow meeting yields little hope for Kosovo crisis

RUSSIA'S EFFORTS to show that the Kosovo crisis can be settled without recourse to Nato jets were dealt a blow yesterday after Slobodan Milosevic refused to withdraw his security troops from the province.

The Yugoslav President emerged from a day of talks in Moscow with President Boris Yeltsin, saying Serbian forces would only leave Kosovo when "terrorism" came to an end - a reference to his Albanian separatist opponents.

The negotiations did, however, yield agreement on other demands made by the Western-dominated Contact Group, prompting optimistic claims by Russia of a breakthrough. "The ball is now to a large extent in the Kosovo Albanians' court," said the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov.

Mr Milosevic later revealed that he had agreed to talk with Ibrahim Rugova, the political leader of Kosovo's Albanians, but had refused to deal with the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which is leading the fight to break away from the

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

remnants of Yugoslavia. He insisted his decision was not linked to Nato's exercises on Monday, in which Nato warplanes roared over neighbouring Macedonia and Albania.

The KLA seems far from ready to go along with Mr Milosevic's conditions. It's newly-appointed spokesman, Jakup Krasniqi, in an interview on Albanian television, has insisted that a dialogue could only begin when "all enemy forces" have been withdrawn from the Serbian province.

He claimed that political pluralism - a reference to Ibrahim Rugova's comparatively moderate Democratic League of Kosovo - was now a luxury in the region.

"We need one political and military power fighting for freedom and unification [with Albania] he said. "The KLA is fully prepared to fight until final victory... in a short period, we have created a huge free territory in Kosovo and we shall not stop."

### ANN MCELVOY

'The EOC has an agenda far beyond its original brief. It no longer believes its goal is merely to prevent discrimination'

— WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4 —

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# Kids kick heels (and each other) as school fizzles out

EUROPEAN TIMES  
PARIS

THE FRENCH school year is already spluttering to a close. It begins at a ferocious pace in the first week of September, like a marathon runner starting too fast, and gradually runs out of steam.

By May and June, the schools' weeks disintegrate into dozens of bank holidays, "ponts" (extended bank holidays) and study (ie rest) days for the teachers.

Our two oldest kids - eight and four - will soon have completed their second year in the French education system. Both have been very happy; both now speak French with reproachfully good accents. We find the school system impressive but maddening: highly structured but chaotic; intense but desultory; in fact, a paradigm of France itself.

Most of all we despair of the lack of creative ambition (something increasingly criticised by French parents and even by the French education minister).

There are reports that Britain is planning to go over to something closer to the French pattern of shorter, more concentrated school terms (five "periods" of roughly six weeks each).

There are many things which we could usefully learn

from the French system but this is not one of them. French kids go to school for less days than those of any industrial country, 30 weeks out of the 52.

When they are at school, they have crushingly long days (even the tiny ones) from 8.30am to 4.30pm, with two-hour lunch-breaks.

These are a holdover from the time when maman was supposed to cook a four-course meal for the whole family at midday. In fact a majority of kids now stay for school lunch, which, like school lunches anywhere, are scooped in five minutes.

The children then spend 1 hour and 55 minutes kicking their heels (and each other) in the playground. Yesterday, since I hadn't seen Charlie (aged 8) for a while - the World Cup is being played in France, in case you had not noticed - I took him out to lunch in a cafe near the school. We had a disreputable time playing pinball and betting on one of the fiendishly complex French versions of the National Lottery.

We also discussed the

arrangements for the forthcoming school "spectacle" (show) in which I am to be a security guard (to keep out "undesirable elements") and Charlie has been cast in the role of "a leaf". In fact, it turned out, every 7- to 8-year-old in the school had been cast as a forest of leaves, except, he explained, "the prettiest girls", who had been cast as "flowers".

The complex-free reinforcement of gender roles, and the grading of children according to their looks, is rather "typiquement francais". So is the "spectacle" itself: a hugely ambitious, yet unambitious, event. Every child in the school has a part but the parts consist of miming en masse to pop songs.

IN OTHER countries, it is usual for doctors and dentists to have receptionists; in America, they have platoons of them, the better to show off their wealth and importance. In France they scarcely exist; the cost of employing people is so forbidding that doctors act as their own receptionists.

with bizarre consequences. At my wife's surgery visits with the children are invariably interrupted by phone calls from other patients.

On one occasion, the doctor took a phone call and (all the time studying our baby's medical records on his computer screen) silently filled in the other patient's prescription, placed it in an envelope, wrote the address and licked and attached the stamp.

On another visit, Margaret twiddled her thumbs while the doctor persuaded a male caller that, no, he had not caught a minor venereal disease from his wife.

On a recent trip to the pediatrician, the phone rang while the doctor was busy clearing the baby's chest. Without a trace of embarrassment, he ordered my wife to pick up the phone and stand beside him holding the receiver to his ear.

Conversely, French hospitals, funded directly by the state, are lavishly staffed, with, for instance, different kinds of nurses for different functions, colour-coded by uniform. I have an unoriginal theory that France suffers not so much from unemployment, but a mixture of over-employment and under-employment.

The scale of the public work-force (four out of 10 workers in France are paid by the state) piles up the taxes and social charges on private employers. As a consequence, entire categories of useful jobs are wiped out.

WHAT DO Eric Cantona and Ronald Reagan have in common?

They will soon both have co-starred in a movie with a monkey.

In his latest cinematic venture, a French film called *Mookie*, the former Manchester United deity plays a professional boxer with a chimp for a pet.

Cantona's (human) sparring-partner in the fight scenes protested to the director that the soccer-turned-film-star was really punching him. "But he hit me first," explained Eric.

JOHN LICHFIELD



The French school system is "impressive but maddening"

Ret



Police officer Igor Lykov with some of the criminal files that would ultimately lead to his death

## Clean-up crusade costs Russian policeman his life

BY PHIL REEVES  
in Moscow

THEY ALL knew that someone, some day, would kill him, and they told him so. His family repeatedly warned him. So did his friends. One of them even tried to spell out the dangers to him on the phone two hours before his murder.

Igor Lykov laughed it off. He acknowledged he was at risk but his friends felt he did not really grasp the reality of the threat.

He was searched, followed, repeatedly disciplined by his bosses, sacked and reinstated, and arrested on the flimsiest of pretexts. Yet he still failed fully to appreciate that one day one of his enemies would go further, that one evening a contract killer would creep into the peeling corridor outside his apartment, ring the bell, shoot him twice, and flee into the darkness. He was left to stagger into his kitchen to die in front of his 15-year-old daughter, Lida.

On one level, Igor Lykov was a minnow, a low-flying \$200-a-month major with a division of the transport police which devotes most of its energies to catching poachers and smugglers on the Volga River. But he had established a larger profile: unlike virtually all his colleagues in uniform, he was prepared to speak out publicly against crime and civil rights abuses within the ranks and the legal system.

He actively pursued corrupt colleagues and, according to his family, forced more than a dozen out of their jobs. "He was very strongly morally motivated," said Andrei Mironov, a Moscow-based human rights activist and former Soviet political prisoner. "He had a sense of justice, a sense of what was true and what was a lie."

Such was the respect that he commanded in the city of Saratov, in southern Russia, that hundreds packed the courtyard outside his home on the day of his funeral last month. And such was the discomfort caused by his ceaseless probing that senior officials from the police and the city boycotted the event. "It was an embarrassment," recalled his friend, Alexander Pronin, a former KGB officer in Saratov. "No

one from the higher administration turned up. Now that would not happen in America, would it, if a cop was killed?"

By the time he was murdered, aged 45, Igor Lykov had a quixotic reputation as a self-appointed, legally-literate one-man unit fighting to clean up a police and judicial system that is widely acknowledged to be one of the most corrupt in the world.

Top Russian newspapers such as *Izvestia* published interviews with him; he had appeared on national television; he attended human rights conferences in Moscow on corruption in the security services. He wrote articles for the local press on police methods of hiring informants. Sometimes he named names. Last year he wrote to the governor of Saratov complaining about a local politician who was secretly in cahoots with the local security services. "It is," he wrote, "immoral and unacceptable."

That is why everyone knew he was in danger. "I believe those who ordered the murder are from somewhere within law enforcement," said Svetlana Baranova, a lawyer and close friend of the major's who used to work with him in the force. "I can't say whether they were the police, the security services, the prosecutors or who it was. But I do believe they were from law enforcement."

It was Mrs Baranova who warned Major Lykov during a telephone conversation just before his death.

He was in high spirits, having just returned from a trip to Moscow, 500 miles away, where he took part in a press conference on crime in the police force, organised by the human rights group the Gleznost Foundation. "I told him that he was an idiot, and that he will be killed," she said. "I asked him who would look after his children?" His wife died nine years ago. "He just laughed and said - you can."

Yet, while cheerfully waving away the concerns of his family and friends, he was well aware his zeal had made him



Lykov's son Ilya (20) and daughter Lida (15) with their aunt Inna Shvidenko

enemies. That much was clear from his own experience. His family and friends say that over his 25 years as a policeman he had 17 disciplinary actions filed against him. On one occasion, he was sacked and then - after bombarding the authorities with letters - reinstated, after proving his firing was illegal.

As time passed, the threats against him became graver. In March, he was stopped by police from the Interior Ministry in Saratov, handcuffed, and taken to a station where he was roughed up. (His response was to start criminal proceedings against them.)

In another particularly sinister incident, a fortnight before he was shot, he found the brake cables in his car had been severed. When he was finally killed, detectives discovered that the weapon was a special issue police pistol. Perhaps it belonged to a criminal with a grudge - such weapons can be found on the black market. But perhaps it did not.

Seven weeks have elapsed since the murder, but the culprits have yet to be found. The procurator in Saratov, Andrei Kornovarov, who is heading the murder investigation, was unwilling to say much yesterday beyond the fact that work was continuing. No one has been charged.

The possibilities are multiple. Shortly before his death, Major Lykov is believed to have been investigating a senior official in the tax police. He was also pur-

suing seven former cops, linked with a criminal syndicate. He was outspoken about the security services, whom he believed were selling compromising material to criminals. And, prosecutors say, he was brokering a deal between two feuding business interests, one of whom was a friend.

What is clear, though, is that Russia has lost an important voice. Igor Lykov was undoubtedly a whistle-blowing zealot. But he was also needed.

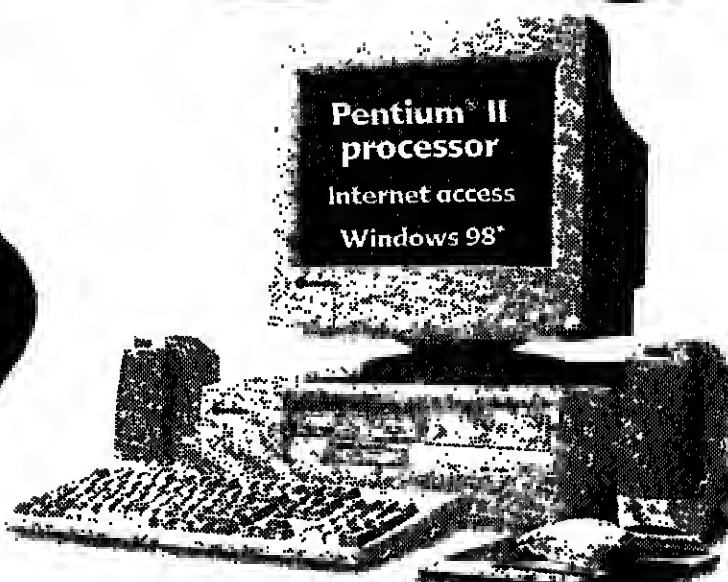
Even a cursory glance at the statistics is enough to show the dimension of official corruption, which Boris Yeltsin has conceded infects every level of society. The Interior Ministry sacked 21,347 officers for corruption in 1996. Another 19,000 were thrown out last year.

Stories of police corruption are so commonplace in Russia that they are regarded as the rule rather than the exception. Among the latest - high ranking officers from the Interior Minister, who are reportedly being investigated for embezzling 350m roubles (£35m). "Almost every day there are crimes in which the police have taken part," said the governor of Saratov, Dmitri Ayatskov. "They take bribes, and sell drugs and weapons."

The major was an exception - not only a clean cop, but one who was prepared to fight for his principles in public. "He is irreplaceable," said Mr Pronin. "People here do not realise what they have lost."

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كانا من الاصل



# Korea: Hyundai boss takes home aid in the first civilian crossing of the Demilitarized Zone since 1945

## The cattle diplomat makes history

THE KOREANS are calling it Operation Rawhide, a quibotic and politically delicate attempt by South Korea's richest businessman to help alleviate the terrible starvation in North Korea which he left as a teenager 65 years ago.

Chung Ju-yung, 82, the founder of the Hyundai empire which makes everything from microchips to cars and aircraft, yesterday sent a convey of 50 trucks directly across the heavily fortified border loaded with 500 cattle.

It was the first time since 1945 that civilian vehicles had crossed the demilitarised zone (DMZ) which separates the North from the South. Traditionally all travel between the two states is via third countries.

The road to the border was fed with flag-waving and cheering crowds who gathered to see the Hyundai trucks covered in Red Cross flags edging their way to the North in the early morning. Passing through the border crossing at Panmunjom, where the two Koreas blast each other with martial music at the occasional exchange of fire, the trucks suffered no obstruction.

Mr Chung made the last part of the journey from the 5th by foot, shuffling into a long Nissen hut-style building called Peace House where a truce was signed ending the 1953 Korean War. The building is preserved in aspic, with old telephones, utilitarian desks and faded flags of the two nations which took part in the war.

Split, like Korea, right down the middle, Peace House never is a civilian visitor pass through its centre door. Military censors have done so, sometimes engaged in a grim mission of exchanging bodies, but usually civilians stay on the side of the road while soldiers in the other side poke their heads through the window taking their photographs in a far from friendly manner.

Beyond the confines of Peace House, on the North Korean side, is the bizarre village which the North Korean government has erected close to the border. The purpose of the village is almost a joke given the state of the country, but it is supposed to show that the North is every bit as prosperous as the South, if not more so. In theory it contains local peasants, in reality they are heavily armed soldiers farming the only farm in the North filled with flourishing crops and illuminated by a constant supply of electricity.

The impressive highway leading from the border to

By STEPHEN VINES  
in Hong Kong

Pyongyang, the Northern capital, was as usual, free of traffic yesterday but surrounded by the tell-tale signs of the famine which is gripping most parts of the country. Armed guards in treehouses by the roadside keep 24-hour watch over the crops to prevent theft, first because the government has made sure that the showpiece highway is surrounded by the few fields given enough fertiliser to produce vaguely healthy crops and secondly because the people are hungry enough to want to steal the food, even though theft bears a high risk.

Mr Chung made the border crossing yesterday for only the second time since leaving his hometown of Tongchun on the north-east coast. Now rather frail, he said he was repaying a debt to his father from whom he had stolen a cow when he fled to the South at the age of 17. The money he raised from selling the family cow laid the foundation for the creation of Hyundai. "I am repaying the debt to my father 1,000 fold," he said, explaining that another convey would be sent with another 500 cattle, making a total of 1,000.

Although he is painting this humanitarian exercise in personal terms there can be no doubting its political significance. The unreformed Stalinist government of North Korea has spurned aid offers from the South on grounds of political strings. However, the severity of the economic situation is forcing the government to accept aid it was far too proud to receive when the famine first took hold.

Moreover, there are reports that Kim Jong-il, the son of the former dictator Kim Il-sung, is preparing to have himself made president when his 50th anniversary in September. He cannot afford to have the celebration marred by an even more severe outbreak of famine and may see some value in seeking better relations with the South.

South Korea's new president, Kim Dae-jung, is doing all he can to improve relations with the North. "Now is the right time to improve relations," he told Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general, when they met at the beginning of the week.

There are few people in South Korea, other than Mr Chung, who could have pulled off a mission to the North which will help President Kim pursue his "sunshine" policy towards Pyongyang. Chung has a hide of steel and barely understands the word "no" when uttered in



Chung Ju-yung touches one of the 500 cattle at Imjingak, north of Seoul, before leaving with his gift for his home town in North Korea

Kang Hyung-woon/AP

opposition to his wishes. Facing the unexpected problem of an arrest in 1993, after unsuccessfully campaigning for the presidency, he said "no amount of oppression would change my will. I have not lived that way". Donald Kirk, one of his biographers, wryly remarks that these "words of defiance might do for an epitaph".

The undisputed boss, some would say tyrant, of his business empire, Mr Chung has not hesitated to dabble deeply in politics. Not only has he run for president and had presidents in his pocket, he was even been arrested for siphoning off money for campaign funds.

In 1989 he made his first return visit to North Korea. Although it was hailed as something of a diplomatic breakthrough, Mr Chung's mind seemed to be on business. Pyongyang was looking for investment, Mr Chung was looking for cheap labour and the possibility of new markets. Neither side got what they wanted.

However, as with his visit yesterday, Mr Chung did not travel to his town empty handed. Seventeen trucks laden with gifts followed his limousine on the journey. Relatives and supposed relatives quickly emerged from the woodwork to hail their distant cousin.

Arrogant, intolerant and ruthless, Chung Ju-yung is now in his twilight years and may well be looking for a place in history which records his achievements as being more than in just the business arena.

Donald Kirk describes Mr Chung as "a major actor in the Northeast Asia drama (who) as much as anyone turned South Korea into a major industrial nation". But Mr Kirk also charges Mr Chung and his

company with having done "much to uphold the decadent past, perpetuating class warfare and repression".

Mr Chung should feel at home in North Korea where repression is the main tool of government and class warfare its supposed rationale.

It is hard to exaggerate the overwhelming sense of fear and rigid control exercised in the last remaining bastion of Stalinism where the cult of personality has gone to more absurd lengths than were ever seen in the Soviet Union.

However, the regime might

finally be facing a challenge. On Monday Hwang Jang-yop, 75, a prominent defector, said in Seoul that an anti-government resistance force had emerged in the North and was distributing anti-government leaflets.

He claimed that although all dissident activity was severely punished, attitudes were changing. "With so many people dying of starvation," he said, "people realise that their leaders have been lying to them."

He added: "Most people still don't think that their leaders are really bad, but they just cannot

stand the situation any more and something should change." Mr Hwang's claims of the existence of a resistance movement are treated with scepticism by the few diplomats still stationed in Pyongyang who report having neither seen nor heard any reports of anti-government activity.

Meanwhile, Operation Rawhide will make no more than a dent in the North Korean famine but it may make a bigger hole in the ominous fence which diplomatically and physically separates the two Koreas.

### IN BRIEF

#### Greek jets land at Cyprus base

GREEK FIGHTER jets and a transport aircraft have landed at an air base at Paphos on Cyprus in a move likely to upset Turkey, which has had 30,000 troops stationed in the north since 1974.

It is the first time Greek planes are known to have landed at the base since its completion in January.

#### Taliban end female education

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban Islamic movement announced the closure of all female private schools and vocational centres yesterday, accusing them of being un-Islamic.

#### Lutherans tackle 400-year rift

THE BODY representing most of the world's 61 million Lutherans approved a joint declaration yesterday which aims to end a 400-year doctrinal dispute with the papacy over the Reformation. Lutheran officials said the "Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" will help end the dispute over whether salvation is a gift from God through grace, or something humans earn through good works.

## Catering for the rising cost of US democracy

LAST NIGHT, three thousand five hundred people sat down to one of the most expensive dinners in history. The meal was to raise cash for the Republican party and was expected to bring in \$10.5m, one of the largest fundraisers ever.

Attendance required a minimum cash commitment of \$15,000 a table for individuals and political action committees, or \$20,000 for corporations. Some groups were contributing up to \$100,000 for the pleasure of dinner with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Leader Trent Lott.

With five months to go until polling day, it looks as if this will be the most expensive Congressional election the United States has ever seen. Vast sums are being ploughed into the campaign by both sides as the cost of American democracy spirals upwards.

According to the Centre for Responsive Politics (CRP), a bipartisan think-tank, candidates for this year's elections had raised \$331m (£200m) in the 15 months to the end of March, 10 per cent up on the same period before the last elections. The cost of a Congressional contest doubled between 1976 and 1982, according to a report by the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate (CSAE), and has shot up since then.

The main reason for the vast, growing appetite for cash is simple: television. Media spending nearly tripled from the Seventies to the Nineties, as

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
in Washington

candidates spent more and more of their cash on 30-second advertising spots. "There's a momentum under way that's unstoppable," says the CRP's Director Larry Mahinson.

More than \$2bn was spent in 1996 in elections for the Presidency, House and Senate, the CRP concluded in a detailed study of the last elections. It cost nearly \$700,000 to win a seat in the House of Representatives, and nearly \$5m to get into the Senate. Both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole spent more than \$100m each in the race for the White House. Finding and tapping the key sources of cash to keep the money machines turning has become the key campaign function.

Millions of Americans give sums of less than \$200 to politicians or parties. Donations of this size aren't identified by the Federal Election Commission, because they are regarded as individually insignificant: these are the little people. You don't buy a bedroom at the White House for two hundred bucks. But some 630,000 gave larger sums, and 235,000 people gave more than \$1,000.

This last group is particularly important: its contributions amounted to one-quarter of all the cash donated to candidates and political parties. "These are the donors whose names are on the candidates' Rolodexes," says the CRP.

"These are the ones in attendance when the President, the Speaker ... or other top political dignitaries travel around the country doing fundraisers."

Then there is the mystically titled "soft money". Most individual donations to candidates in federal elections count as "hard money" - subject to campaign finance limits. The wobblier sort, often from companies or unions, is subject to no limits, but is supposed to be used only to support state and local candidates, or party activities. Some chance. Soft money totalled \$262m in 1996. There have been frequent attempts to limit soft money, but so far to no avail.

Tens of millions are also spent on so-called "issue advocacy" advertisements, which are superficially about an issue but often focus on the merits or demerits of a particular candidate. Again, this money is unregulated.

The campaign finance system is skewed permanently to the right. A survey of more than 1,000 individual donors by Clyde Wilcox of Georgetown University showed they were overwhelmingly white (86 per cent), male (81 per cent), over 45 (87 per cent), rich (46 per cent with incomes of more than \$250,000), and conservative (51 per cent).

In other words, US politics is dominated by a wealthy community equivalent in size to a medium-sized town, and a pretty right wing one at that. The biggest source of fund-

ing by far amongst groups or organisations is the business community. Nearly two-thirds of business cash goes, unsurprisingly, to the Republicans. The financial sector leads the pack, with lawyers and lobbyists not far behind.

The Political Action Committees, groups which bundle together contributions in the name of an issue or interest, spread their money between the parties, but tend to back incumbent politicians - hardly a radical force for change. They want to buy influence, and there's no point in giving to outsiders.

None of this is good for American democracy. The Congressional agenda is shaped by the individuals and corporations with the biggest bank balances, and the need to stroke them as elections come around.

Politics has become increasingly a sport for the rich, with candidates themselves poring over \$161m in 1996. Because of the vast appetite for cash, candidates devote increasing amounts of their time to chasing donors rather than voters.

"If more than 50 per cent of the campaign budget goes to media and an average of 30 per cent goes to fundraising and the rest goes to candidate travel and staff," says Curtis Gans of the CSAE, "there is nothing left for any activities involving people."

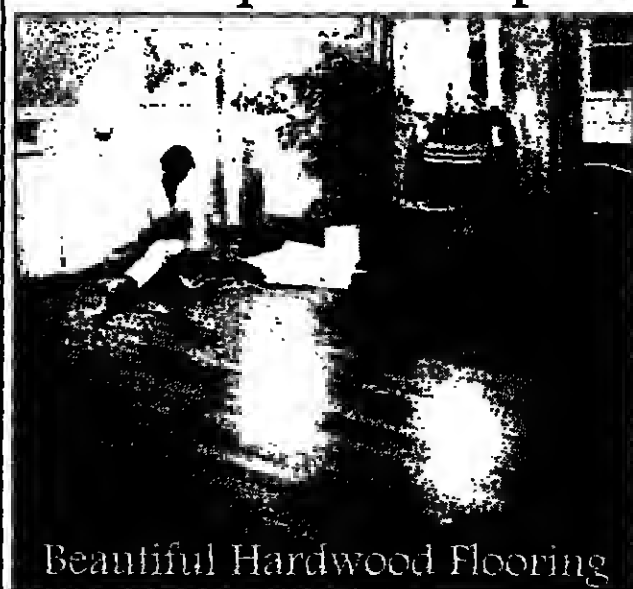
Unless, of course, those people are wearing tuxedos and packing Mont Blanc pens to sign a personal cheque at the end of the evening.

### JACK CHARLTON

*'We mustn't give these idiots, these so-called England supporters, the opportunity to say they have defeated attempts to contain them'*

— WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5 —

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# BUSINESS

## Eddie George sounds the alarm as inflation leaps

### BRIEFING

#### Liffe chief talks down rumours

DANIEL HODSON, chief executive of Liffe, London's futures and options exchange, moved play down rumours that rival exchanges could begin to trade UK gilt futures. Liffe is currently the only exchange to trade gilt futures but recent press reports have suggested that the French futures exchange, and the DTB, the German futures exchange, could compete head-on with the London exchange for gilt future trades.

"It's a very old story," Mr Hodson said on the fringes of a derivatives conference in London. Liffe has recently faced heavy criticism after losing the bulk of trade in the German government bond future (the Bund) to the DTB. Many dealers prefer to use the DTB's low cost electronic trading system than to trade Bunds on Liffe's traditional open-outcry trading floor.

The DTB said yesterday that it was considering moving into gilt futures, but that no concrete plans had been made.

#### Glaxo and Smithkline attacked

MPS ON the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee seriously criticised Smithkline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome yesterday for the way they abandoned a planned mega-merger in February. The committee concluded that a tie up would have been a good thing, creating a national champion that would actually secure domestic jobs and know-how.

#### Mutual benefits

LEAGUE TABLES, based on ratings devised by the Office of Fair Trading, show mutuals dominating the ranks of the best providers of good value in savings, pensions and bonds, according to a survey published yesterday. Equitable Life, Scottish Widows, Friends Provident and Standard Life rate above average on 14 criteria devised by the OFT which measure investment performance and charges on the policies. The only non-mutual included is Norwich Union, which converted to become a listed company last summer.

The rankings reveal that a saver who put away £20 a month into a with-profits policy for the last 25 years would collect £48,162 if it was with Wesleyan Assurance, which ranks top for these payouts. If the same saver had been with Liverpool Victoria, the payout would be £28,685 - 40 per cent less. Page 20

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, warned yesterday that the economy was closer to overheating. The Governor was speaking shortly after the release of new figures showed headline inflation jumping to a six-year high, vindicating the Bank's surprise decision to raise interest rates earlier this month.

In a speech to the British Chambers of Commerce annual conference in Birmingham, Mr George said it might have been a "mistake" to delay the increase in rates until the beginning of this month. The Bank had moved in small steps because it was concerned about the impact on the strong pound, he explained.

Separately, other members of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) told MPs on the Treasury Committee that the tight labour market and the strength of domestic demand lay behind the persistence of domestically generated inflation. The MPC members also

warned that last week's unexpected Government announcement on public spending could influence the inflation outlook.

Commenting on the disappointing inflation figures, Mr George said: "Although the retail price figures are exaggerated, they're clearly not comfortable in relation to the objective for inflation that the Government has set. We are in fact in a situation which is closer to overheating than it's been in a long time, looking at the economy as a whole."

The rise in May's headline inflation rate from 4 per cent to 4.2 per cent, along with the comments from the MPC members, raised the spectre of a further increase in the cost of borrowing from the current 7.5 per cent.

Prices in the short sterling futures market tumbled as traders concluded that another rate rise would now be on the cards. The pound climbed more than 2 pence to close at DM2.97.

The measure of inflation targeted by the Bank also rose in May, from 3.0 per cent to 3.2 per

cent, and came ever closer to the 3.5 per cent level which would trigger the need for a letter of explanation from Mr George to the Chancellor.

One of the main contributory factors to the inflation rise was higher seasonal food prices. They soared 8.3 per cent during the month, the biggest May increase since England won the World Cup in 1966. Tax measures introduced in the Budget also helped push inflation higher.

The rise in headline inflation in May fuelled fears of higher pay deals. Official figures out this morning are expected to show a further pick-up in earnings growth, one of the key pieces of data for the MPC.

John Vickers, the newest member of the MPC, said: "Labour market developments are clearly of particular importance."

Mr Vickers, widely believed to have voted for a rise earlier this month, was speaking during his "confirmation hearing" in front of the Treasury Committee - the hearing gives MPs an opportunity to grill MPC

members about their qualifications and experience.

Separate figures yesterday showed that government borrowing - newly named the Public Sector Net Cash Requirement - was lower than expected last month, at just

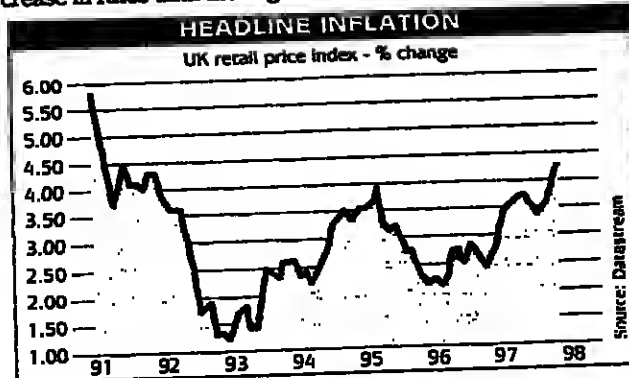
£2.5bn. Government receipts in the first two months of the financial year are up 8.3 per cent in annual terms, while departmental spending is down by nearly 1 per cent.

However, most City analysts interpret the spending figures as pointing to a significant loosening in the stance of fiscal policy. Members of the MPC told MPs that if detailed Bank analysis confirmed the view that the Chancellor's plans did indeed amount to a loosening of policy, the inflation outlook could be affected.

Professor Goodhart said: "I assume that anything described as greater expenditure will, unless there are strong reasons, lead to higher output. And a tendency for inflationary pressure would be that much greater."

Mervyn King, another MPC member, told MPs that the MPC would review the current six-week delay between MPC meetings and publication of minutes, and report back by August.

Outlook, page 25



### Securicor looks at listing Cellnet stake

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

SECURICOR, THE security and electronics group, is looking at listing its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet on the stock market in a move that would place a concrete value on the UK's second-largest mobile phone operator.

"We would consider a number of options to make sure that value for our shareholders is maximised," finance director Chris Shirlcliffe said yesterday, referring to the Cellnet stake. He confirmed that these options included a flotation or demerger.

Until now, British Telecom, which owns the remaining 60 per cent of Cellnet, had been the favourite to buy out its partner. The two companies agreed a deal in 1995 only for it to be blocked by the Department of Trade and Industry on competition grounds.

The DTI has recently shown signs of easing its stance. But BT is thought to be less keen to buy out Securicor's holding since it already exerts full management control over the business. Even if it does take full control, Ofcom, the industry regulator, would be likely to insist



Cellnet, the UK's second-largest mobile phone operator, may soon have a concrete value placed on it

it was run separately from BT's existing fixed-line operations.

A flotation would have the added advantage of putting a firm value on Cellnet for the first time. The value of the UK's two quoted mobile phone

operators, Vodafone and Orange, has risen sharply in the past few months.

Analysts calculate that, based on current valuations, Cellnet could be worth up to £8bn. That would value Securicor's stake at £3.2bn - more than the group's entire market capitalisation.

Cellnet has lost ground in the UK mobile phone market of late against competitors such as Orange. It recently appointed

Peter Erskine, a former BT executive, as chief executive in an attempt to reverse its flagging performance. Last month it unveiled a package of new offers that it hopes will help it win new subscribers.

Earlier, long-distance operator Mercury merged with a clutch of smaller US-owned cable operators to create Cable & Wireless Communications.

The deals are inspired by an attempt to cut operating costs and exploit economies of scale in the heavily loss-making cable industry. Operators have also been trying to improve service levels in an attempt to increase the penetration of cable television and telephony.

ComTel was put up for sale by its owner, Koninklijke PTT Nederland, the Dutch telecom giant, after it decided not to participate in consolidation of the industry.

NTL is the third-largest player behind CWC, which has franchises covering over six million homes, while Telewest now has approximately 5.8 million homes.

The chief executive would have "carte blanche" and could recommend a number of options including the disposal of some of the peripheral businesses.

Premier Farnell was formed in 1996 through the £2.8bn takeover of Premier Industrial of the US by the UK-based Farnell Electronics.

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## Sales slowdown hits Premier shares

MORE THAN £130m was wiped off Premier Farnell's market valuation yesterday as shares slumped after the troubled electronic components group warned about a sales slowdown in its core markets.

Shares in Premier Farnell, which manufactures and distributes electronic components via catalogue, yesterday lost 14.3 per cent to close at 313.5p, 51.5p below Monday's closing price.

The share collapse overshadowed the appointment of ICI's John Hirst as chief executive in place of Howard Poulson, who left at the end of

January after the company issued the second profit warning in just over a year.

Yesterday Malcolm Bates, chairman, told Premier's annual general meeting that the company's core catalogue distribution division had been hit by "a marked softening in the past two months in both the North American and UK markets".

The two markets account for around two-thirds of Premier's operations. Mr Bates denied that the statement was another profit

warning and said that it was "far too early" to gauge the impact of the slowdown on

the company's profitability. "It may be a temporary phenomenon or it may last longer. I simply don't know," he said.

City analysts ignored Mr Bates' comments and downgraded the profit forecast for the current financial year to around £140m from £150m.

Mr Bates said the fall in demand in the UK and US was probably due to the Asian turmoil which had forced Premier Farnell customers to scale back their orders.

The chairman said Mr Hirst would conduct a strategic review of the whole company to

be concluded by the end of the year.

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### £1.4bn buy-outs knits up cable industry

THE CONSOLIDATION of the UK's cable industry continued yesterday when NTL, the US-quoted group swooped to buy two of its smaller rivals in deals worth a combined £1.4bn, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

NTL is buying ComTel, which operates franchises in the Midlands and the South-East, for £550m. At the same time, it is also acquiring East Midlands-based operator Diamond Cable for £850m.

The addition of ComTel's franchises, which cover 1.1 million homes, and Diamond, which has 1.2 million homes, cements NTL's position as the country's third-largest cable operator, covering more than five million homes and almost a million customers.

The deal, which effectively concentrates the UK cable industry in the hands of three major players, follows a rush of activity in the sector.

In the past few months, NTL has announced a £600m merger with Comcast, another US-quoted group. However, its bid for UK-quoted operator General Cable was trumped by a £849m offer from rival Telewest.

Earlier, long-distance operator Mercury merged with a clutch of smaller US-owned cable operators to create Cable & Wireless Communications.

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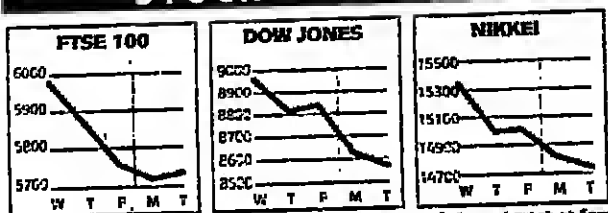
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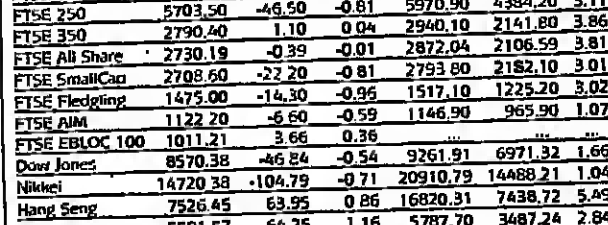
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### STOCK MARKETS



Source: Datastream

### INTEREST RATES

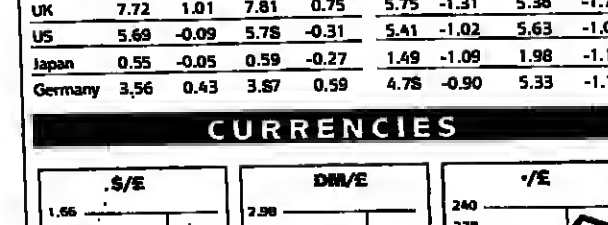


Source: Datastream

### MONEY MARKET RATES

	3 month	6 month	1 year	1 yr 6m	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	15 yr	20 yr	30 yr
UK	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72	7.72
US	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Germany	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56	3.56

### CURRENCIES



Source: Datastream

### OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	10.96	0.19	16.86	GDP	114.70	2.90	111.47	Aug	
Gold (\$)	286.35	3.60	342.65	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91	Jun	
Silver (\$)	5.14	0.04	4.70	Base Rates	7.50		6.50		

Source: Bloomberg

### TOURIST RATES

	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6968	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.47	Switzerland (francs)	2.4040	USA (\$)	1.5998		
Austria (schillings)	20.17	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2349	Thailand (bahts)	64.60				
Belgium (francs)	59.29	New Zealand (\$)	3.1800	Turkey (liras)	414215				
Canada (\$)	2.3534	Norway (krone)	12.25	USA (\$)	1.5998				
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8393	Portugal (escudos)	291.67						
Denmark (krone)	10.99	Saudi Arabia (rials)	2.7241						
Finland (markka)	8.7774	Singapore (\$)	2.7241						
France (francs)	9.6330	Spain (pesetas)	243.18						
Germany (marks)	2.8809	South Africa (rands)	8.4611						
Greece (drachma)	489.22	Sweden (krone)	12.91						
Hong Kong (\$)	12.30	Switzerland (francs)	2.4040						
Ireland (pounds)	1.1374	Thailand (bahts)	64.60						
India (rupees)	69.77	Turkey (liras)	414215						
Israel (shekels)	5.5676	USA (\$)	1.5998						
Italy (lira)	2842								
Japan (yen)	234.32								
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2351								
Malta (lira)	0.6233								

Source: Thomas Cook

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

AFTER FIVE days of ragged retreat leading shares staged a modest but seemingly fragile rally. Footsie recovered from an early fall to close 14 points higher at 5,729.7 in active trading.

A late advance by BG, the old British Gas, took the shares to the top of the blue-chip leader board as the price, in brisk trading, rose 11p to 323p. Insurances were also in form. Investors, it was claimed, were hunting for the equity equivalent of bonds. But the rest of the market stayed in the doldrums.

Derek Pain, page 23

#### NEW YORK

US STOCKS were slightly higher in early afternoon after a mixed morning in which oil and computer shares rallied while companies with large overseas earnings fell on concerns that the strong dollar will hurt profits.

At 13:13pm, the Dow Jones was up 18.93 at 8,646.36 as bond yields near record lows and the previous day's 207-point drop to a three-month low made some equities look attractive. But the rise came just an hour after trading curbs were triggered following a fall of almost 50 points.

#### TOKYO

THE NIKKEI index fell to a five-month low for a second day running as fears that the recession and the weak yen will hurt corporate earnings prompted a wave of selling. The Nikkei 225 dropped 104.79 points to 14,720.38, its lowest level since January 12.

Property companies such as Mitsubishi Estates fell as the bankruptcy of an unlisted builder raised the spectre of more failures, while banks were also hit by concerns that they might be unable to meet their capital adequacy standards if the yen weakens further.

#### PARIS

EUROPE'S main bourses were given some reassurance from Wall Street on Tuesday amid continued alarm over the Asian financial crisis, with Paris managing to climb marginally to end up 0.2 per cent, having languished in the red earlier.

Dealers said that France, with its growing economy, represented a safe haven, but their predictions were largely cautious. Lower prices may in fact provide some opportunities for bargain hunting, with dealers suggesting cyclical stocks could be targeted.

#### GERMANY

GERMAN SHARES closed slightly higher as concerns over the effect of the Asian crisis on domestic corporate earnings eased after the Japanese yen firmed against the dollar. A positive opening on Wall Street also helped sentiment and contributed to a 40.47 point rise in the DAX index of 30 leading companies to 5621.71 points.

Volkswagen was among the top performers, rising 60.55 marks to 1,677 on the back of a "buy" note from broker Merrill Lynch last week and optimism over the acquisitions of Rolls-Royce and Lamborghini.

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# Higher traffic puts Eurotunnel on track with banks

**STRONG** growth in cross-Channel traffic has led to a 20 per cent increase in Eurotunnel sales in the first five months. The upsurge puts the company on track to meet targets set in its latest debt reorganisation, said Patrick Ponsolle, executive chairman.

The more positive atmosphere was reflected at yesterday's annual general meeting.

**BY TERRY MACALISTER**

of the Channel Tunnel operator. Shareholders used question time to congratulate Robert Malpas, co-chairman, on his newly announced knighthood rather than attacking him about the state of their investments.

The company said it carried 1.25 million cars in the five

months to the end of May. This was double the number during the same period of 1997 when the service was reduced due to the previous November's fire.

The latest figures also compared favourably with the 676,349 cars carried in the first part of 1996, the last period when it was operating normally.

Other services also showed growth. Travel on Eurostar passenger train services through the tunnel rose 14 per cent to 2.49 million passengers while carriage of rail freight was up 18 per cent at 1.35 million tons.

Attracting new business is vital for Eurotunnel to satisfy lender banks, which agreed earlier this year to reschedule payments on its £2.7bn debt.

Mr Ponsolle said: "If current trends continue we should

easily meet our objectives for the year or even, as in 1997, exceed them."

He told shareholders assembled at London's Westminster Hall that the abolition of duty-free sales would slow traffic volumes overall across the Channel.

But he believed Eurotunnel's market share would increase because the company was less dependent than the ferry operators on duty-free sales.

There were better opportunities for Eurotunnel to develop shopping schemes in areas like the Coquelles terminal, he said. "We will unveil large scale projects to that end before late summer."

Similar plans were expected for the UK but planning re-

strictions made this more tricky, he admitted. The company also hoped to benefit from the new BA-led Eurostar management and was taking steps to improve profitability by attacking overheads.

Negotiations were under way to reduce the cost of debt restructuring. Eurotunnel wants to lower the 250 basis points over Libor rate of its senior debt.

## IN BRIEF

### Mergers 'may hurt returns'

ALAN GREENSPAN, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, yesterday warned that the recent wave of industrial and financial services mergers could create such large corporate bureaucracies that shareholders' returns would be hurt, but added that it was not likely to decrease competition.

Speaking before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mr Greenspan said that while bank mergers "have led to a substantial rise in national concentration measures, they have little or no evident impact on average concentration measured at the more relevant local market level."

### Ryanair to float

RYANAIR HOLDINGS, the no-frills airline, said it would raise Ir£50m (£22m) in an offering and would also seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange. The company will use the proceeds to buy 25 Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

Ryanair has appointed Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Davy Stockbrokers as joint managers of the offering, which will be directed at institutional investors in Ireland, the UK and Continental Europe. Pricing details are expected in mid-July.

### BNFL eyes US

BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS last night refused to comment on reports that a consortium of which it is a part was well placed to win a US-based nuclear power business from CBS.

The media group, which wants to sell its industrial assets, is said to have called for exclusive talks to begin on Thursday with BNFL and partner, Morrison Knudsen.

### Yes for SKB

SMITHKLINE-BEECHAM said it had received approval from the US Food & Drug Administration to market its Famvir drug for the treatment of genital herpes in patients with HIV. Famvir already has approval for use in otherwise healthy patients with the herpes virus. An estimated 40 million Americans suffer from the contagious infection. About 95 per cent of patients with HIV also are infected with herpes, the company said.

### Property down

DEMAND for commercial property has fallen over the past six months, particularly among larger firms with over 2,000 employees, says a survey by the Confederation of British Industry and GVA Grimley. Over the next six months, 29 per cent of respondents expect to reduce their property holdings, while only 22 per cent expect to increase them. This compares with a positive balance of 11 per cent in January's survey.

## Drugs link: SmithKline and Glaxo are ticked off, but a committee report says they should merge



SmithKline chief Jan Leschly is fighting speculation that he might resign over the failed merger. Credit

# MPs criticise failure of drug merger

**TOP** management at SmithKline Beecham and Glaxo Wellcome were seriously criticised by MPs in a report published yesterday for the way they abandoned a planned mega-merger in February.

In addition, the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee has signalled its support for any future tie-up between the two drug company giants.

The stock market has been awash with rumours that merger talks are again on the agenda. The companies have either denied the moves or refused to comment on them.

The committee, chaired by Dr Alan Williams, initially decided to examine the planned merger as it feared that the UK's research and development base would be damaged. Ironically, it concluded that a merger would have been a good thing, creating a national champion that would actually help secure domestic jobs and expertise.

**BY TERRY MACALISTER**

But the committee's report is critical of the manner in which the talks broke down. It says: "The judgement of senior executives must be called into question. They readily embarked on an adventure with national assets, and then equally readily abandoned the enterprise less than a month later without a clear cause consistent with claimed advantages."

It believes that neither Glaxo's executive chairman, Sir Richard Sykes, nor SmithKline's chief executive, Jan Leschly, has been properly called to account for the merger failure.

The committee said the two men gave contradictory reasons why the talks broke down, but it remained unconvinced that management styles and philosophies were so different as to be irreconcilable.

Glaxo hit out at the report, saying its conclusions were "surprising" and "disappoint-



Glaxo and its chairman, Sir Richard Sykes, were 'surprised and disappointed' at the report. Credit

## Barclays to review clawbacks

BARCLAYS BANK confirmed yesterday it will review a controversial policy allowing its pension scheme to claw back up to £1,600 a year from the incomes of Barclays pensioners, writes Andrew Verity.

The practice - pensions clawback - has angered members of Barclays' £10bn pension fund who find they can lose up to £30 a week from their pension income. The fund has a surplus of more than £2bn.

Following a meeting with the Barclays finance union, UniFi, the Barclays pensions director, Martin Hodgkinson, said he would take the issue to a meeting of the board of directors in August.

Unions have opposed the practice, which appears to undermine the principle that occupational pensions should be a "second tier" above the basic state pension.

Under pensions clawback, employers can reduce an employee's income from an occupational pension by an amount up to the value of the

## Mutuals head the list for best-value savings

**MUTUAL** insurance companies dominate the ranks of the best providers of good value in savings, pensions and bonds, according to an authoritative survey published yesterday.

League tables, based on ratings devised by the Office of Fair Trading, show mutuals taking four of the top five places for consistently good value.

Equitable Life, Scottish Widows, Friends Provident and Standard Life rate above average on 14 criteria devised by the OFT which measure investment performance and charges on the policies. The only non-mutual included is Norwich Union, which converted to a listed company last summer.

The survey, sponsored by the weekly trade newspaper Money Marketing and conducted by KPMG, the actuarial consultants, also shows big differences in the amount life insurers pay out to policyholders.

A saver who put away £20 a month in a with-profits policy for the past 25 years would collect £43,162 with Wesleys Assurance, which ranks top on these pay-outs. With Liverpool Victoria the pay-out would be £28,685 - 40 per cent less (see table).

Worryingly, it also shows that pay-outs on most policies are now falling despite the sustained bull run on the stock market over the past 10 years.

In the 10 years to the end of 1997, insurance companies saw returns on UK equities rise to 16 per cent a year, compared with 14 per cent a year over the 10 years to the end of 1996.

Despite this, pay-outs on many policies have fallen sharply over the past year, suggesting insurers are passing on

Pay-outs on with-profits policies:  
Based on savings of £20 a month over 25 years.

Company	Pay-out (£) including terminal bonus
1 Wesleys Assurance	43,162
2 General Accident	37,779
3 Royal London	37,220
4 RNPEN	36,538
5 Royal Life	36,505
6 Clerical Medical	34,848
7 Ecclesiastical	33,337
8 Scottish Mutual	33,073
9 Sun Life of Canada	32,998
10 Scottish Widows	32,951
11 Standard Life	32,934
12 Commercial Union	32,520
13 Thimbridge Wells Equitable	32,332
14 Prudential	32,259
15 Friends Provident	32,018
16 Britannia Assurance	31,463
17 NFU Mutual	31,194
18 Scottish Life	30,825
19 Legal & General	30,467
20 Scottish Amicable	30,225
21 Medical Savings	30,181
22 Norwich Union	29,814
23 Sun Life	28,786
24 AXA Assurance (a)	28,781
25 CUS	28,707
26 Royal Liver Assurance	28,609
27 Scottish Provident	27,755
28 MCM Assurance	26,878
29 Scottish Friendly	26,118
30 Pearl Assurance	25,680
31 London Life	25,569
32 Equitable Life	24,537
33 National Mutual	23,728
34 Liverpool Victoria	23,605

Source: Money Marketing

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-dividend
Ardsley Group (I)	18.33m (18.31m)	2.9m (3.7m)	2.9p (3.7p)	1.4p (2.3p)	24.06.98	24.06.98
Business Post (F)	97.56m (80.58m)	19.05m (16.10m)	25.4p (21.9p)	14.5p (10.5p)	03.06.98	20.07.98
Colsonite (F)	12.51m (10.58m)	2.56m (1.52m)	5.3p (3.6p)	2.4p (2.2p)	18.06.98	13.07.98
Business Electrical (I)	36.21m (32.57m)	2.805m (1.955m)	9.08p (7.39p)	0.75p (0.70p)	07.08.98	22.06.98
FDI (F)	1.29m (1.02m)	145.1m (87.8m)	17.11p (13.28p)	7.5p (6.5p)	25.10.98	24.06.98
GWR Group (F)	73.71m (63.82m)	14.1m (11.38m)	8.8p (8.9p)	3.4p (3.4p)	07.08.98	24.06.98
Hawthorn Funds (F)	758.7m (890.0m)	32.5m (32.3m)	13.45p (11.85p)	7.3p (6.85p)	05.10.98	24.06.98
Mountainview Estates (F)	26.41m (20.41m)	11.822m (8.388m)	170.0p (122.5p)	48.0p (42.0p)	17.05.98	22.06.98
Partnerships & Sunderland (F)	46.35m (40.61m)	-7.373m (0.871m)	-21.15p (-2.43p)	-	-	-
Outright Estates (F)	176.48m (150.95m)	11.02m (7.47m)	63.9p (51.5p)	18.1p (14.48p)	06.08.98	29.06.98
Securiton (I)	28.88m (11.78m)	10.52m (8.49m)	9.3p (8.6p)	4.0p (3.3p)	29.07.98	06.07.98
Vite Holdings (F)	581.0m (673.3m)	43.5m (15.1m)	5.4p (1.6p)	0.43p (0.39p)	30.09.98	24.06.98
Victoria (I)	94.38m (85.49m)	2.458m (0.503m)	2.5p (0.06p)	1.5p (1.0p)	13.10.98	14.09.98
Zorgo Holdings (F)	24.21m (19.50m)	6.753m (5.052m)	6.2p (4.7p)	1.85p (1.50p)	24.07.98	22.06.98
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	13.18m (10.40m)	0.297m (0.821m)	-1.0p (2.3p)	nil (nil)	-	-

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## Suits give way, but not to jeans

OVER 4,500 staff at Direct Line's call centres from Croydon to Glasgow began enjoying the benefits yesterday of a relaxation of the official dress code from "Business Dress" to "Business Casual".

Ian Chippendale, the chief executive of Direct Line, Royal Bank of Scotland's phone insurance operation, sent a memo to all staff this week telling them that suits and ties for men, for instance, were no longer de rigueur.

A spokeswoman said yesterday that the decision was based on Mr Chippendale's "firm belief that casual dress will help to keep barriers down between staff, and will help team building in a more relaxed environment".

But that doesn't mean jeans, boiler suits or balaclavas. Staff should wear "appropriate" dress, said the spokeswoman, which could include more formal outfits if external visitors are expected at the work place. I can't wait to see Mr Chippendale in a Pringle pullover and beige flares.

**JOHN VICKERS**, the new boy on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, was up in front of the Treasury Select

### PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



Committee yesterday to face questions about his appointment. The MPs were particularly interested in his time as investment bursar at Nuffield College, Oxford.

When asked whether he was a successful investor, Mr Vickers replied that the college "made a large amount of money due to the decisions made by my predecessor".

Sir Peter Lloyd MP (Con, Fareham) chimed in: "Just like the Chancellor", to guffaws from the assembled MPs - of all political hues.

Mr Vickers did subsequently admit, under questioning,

that he lost money in the stock market crash of October 1987, but there again, so did most people.

ARGUMENTS continue to rage about the merits of the merger mania now sweeping investment banks, but it certainly shakes the staff up: two big cheeses from recently merged outfits announced new jobs yesterday.

Entirely coincidentally, Conor Killeen said he was leaving UBS to be Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's Global Head of Equity Capital Markets, while Thomas M (Terry) Fitzgerald III is departing Salomon Smith Barney to join Schroders - as Global Head of Equity Capital Markets.

Conor Killeen was quite clear about his reasons for jumping ship. "I was very enthusiastic about the merger [between UBS and SBC] at the beginning. But somewhere along the way I lost faith in the new guys."

While Mr Killeen thinks the new SBC/UBS combination is "fantastic, and will work out", he decided back in January to get a new job, and in the process talked to "an awful lot of banks".

He's looking forward to joining the DKB team, where he will report to Tim Shacklock, global head of corporate finance, and Alan Yarrow, global head of equities.

"The US guys will tell you that there is only one game in town at the moment and that's Europe. These guys (at DKB) have got Germany nailed and they've got the UK nailed," enthused Conor.

Joining him will be Olivier Favre-Gilly, also previously with UBS, and Fabian French, formerly with Merrill Lynch, as directors in equity capital markets.

Meanwhile Terry Fitzgerald III is joining Schroders after the Salomon merger with Wall Street rival Smith Barney last September.

Mr Fitzgerald, 39, has spent all his working life, spanning 16 years, working for Salomon, so leaving is a big step.

Richard Broadbent, group managing director of corporate finance at Schroders, said they believed Mr Fitzgerald would be a good team player. Having stayed at the same bank for so long, he obviously didn't "flip from job to job - we like that," said Mr Broadbent.

The Schroders boss is proud

of his bank's stability relative to the turbulence in the rest of the sector. "You don't build businesses by hiring and firing. Consistency is incredibly important for our corporate customers," said Mr Broadbent.

IMPRESS your friends with this amazing fact: the capitalisation of all stock markets in Asia and Australasia, excluding Japan, is now less than that of the Netherlands.

PREMIER FARNELL, the global distributor of electronic components which issued a profit warning yesterday, has got a new chief executive. John Hirst, 45, is leaving his post as Officer to the ICI Executive at its global head office in London to join Premier at the beginning of next month.

One leading City analyst was unimpressed. "He's a bit of a lightweight. I can't believe there has been a big sigh of relief at the appointment of a 45-year-old relative unknown to head the company."

Harsh, considering Mr Hirst has been ICI's Group Treasurer and moulded ICI Autocolor into a global force to be reckoned with (it says here). There again, it's a harsh world.

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High Low Stock				High Low Stock				High Low Stock				High Low Stock			
Price	Chg	Vol	Code	Price	Chg	Vol	Code	Price	Chg	Vol	Code	Price	Chg	Vol	Code
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>COMMODITIES</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>ENERGY</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>FINANCIAL</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>RETAIL</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>UTILITIES</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>GOVERNMENT SECURITIES</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>PERPETUAL</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>SHARE PRICE DATA</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100
<b>RECENT ISSUES</b>															
100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100	100	0.0	100	100



# Blue chips stage a modest revival

ALTHOUGH BLUE chips perked up, the rest of the stock market remained depressed. Footsie ended 14 points higher at 3,729.7 but the mid and small cap indices again suffered sharp reverses.

Even the blue chip rally looked fragile. Much to many observers' surprise Footsie quickly threw off the inhibitions of New York's overnight slump and by lunchtime was 38.3 ahead. But with New York looking uncertain in the afternoon the market became cautious, even hesitant.

Still even such a modest revival created satisfaction. Footsie had been in a ragged retreat for five trading days, creating anxiety that the long bull run could have ended. The recovery was not just the result of "bottom fishing". Investors appeared to be hunting for what could be regarded as the equity equivalent of bonds, with some Footsie constituents in demand.

BG, up 11p at 323p was one beneficiary, BT with an 18.5p gain to 672p was another.

Some of the insurers drew strength, with GRE 10.5p higher at 382.5p as ABN Amro and HSBC dis-

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

played their support. Last week Cazenove reduced its profit expectations but remained positive.

Brewers were helped by the confident Whitbread trading statement. Bass frothed 18p to 1,085p and Scottish & Newcastle 14p to 850p. Whitbread gained 15p to 1,015p.

Banks were mixed. Barclays fell 8p to 1,677p despite SBC Warburg signalling a 2,200p target and CSFB shooting for 2,500p. Halifax, lifting mortgage and interest rates, gained 4p to 801p. HSBC and Standard Chartered reflected the firmer Hong Kong market.

British Petroleum, showing analysts its operations in Alaska, hardened 5p to 863p.

Nycomed Amersham, the health group, was another on the analytical bandwagon. The shares advanced 12.5p (after 25p) to 417.25p as details filtered through of a confident investment presentation in Sweden.

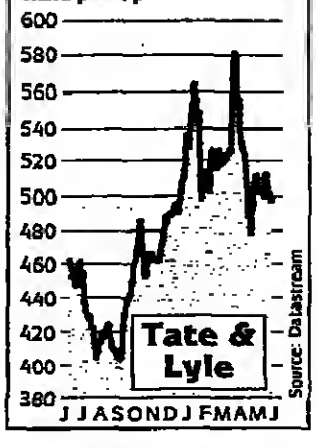
Others enjoying analyst support included Great Universal Stores, up 3.5p to 874.5p with Warburg suggesting a 950p price, and Reed International, up 4.5p to 544p, as Pannure Gordon made bullish noises.

BTR firmed 1.5p to 177p; Schroders indicated it may trim its profit forecast following a meeting with the company. Smiths Industries, up 28p to 840p, was helped by rumours of BT Alex Brown support.

Tate & Lyle seemed to benefit from talks between a US group and analysts. The shares rose 7p to 502p on suggestions the American message indicated trading should be improving for the sugar group.

Next, on its way out of Footsie, fell 21p to 523.5p and Allied Domecq continued to reflect the lack of any developments on its spirits front, falling 5p to 583p.

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



The mid cap index fell 44.5 points to 5,703.5 and the small cap was off 22.2 to 2,708.6. JJB Sports led the mid caps, up 22.5p to 587.5p on hopes that England's win will lead to increased sales of sports goods. But Premier Farnell fell 14.1p to 313.5p following a profits warning and Securicor lost 30p to 441.5p on its figures.

finance for international trade, tumbled 27.5p to 317.5p. The group is thought to have been hit by the upheaval in the Far East and there is talk of a profits warning. Two stockbrokers were said to be offering shares of stock. Last year the company made £38.5m. The shares have fallen from around 475p since March.

Insurance broker Oriel edged forward 4.5p to 107p as Oman National Holdings made a 112p cash offer but hid speculation faded at struggling engineer PowerScreen, off 22p to 99.5p. Insurance group Bradstock slumped 10p to 45p after a sharp profits fall.

Stanford Rook, the drugs group, lost much of Monday's gain, falling 12p to 87.5p. Hummingbird Life Sciences, the testing agency which was hit last year by allegations of cruelty to animals in its laboratories, crashed 15p to 18.5p. There was talk of a large line of shares on offer. One suggestion was that as much as 15 per cent of the capital was being hawked around. PDPM has 18.99 per cent and Robert Fleming 15.05 per cent. Animal rights activists recently threatened to embarrass fund managers supporting Hummingbird.

Regal Hotels fell 1.5p to 41.5p after taking a £1m "significant" equity stake in The Restaurant Partnership, running the Simply Nico and Nico Central brands.

Slug & Lettice, which must be the ugliest company name on the market, appeared for the first time. It is the new name for Grosvenor Inns. Still the new title, which reflects the brand name of the group's pub chain, was good for the shares, up 6p to 301.5p, a peak.

City Gourmet, reversed into controversial Lancia Trust, made a poor start. Against a 100p flotation the shares tumbled to 78.5p with, it appeared, former Lancia shareholders eager to exit. The company's main activity is running coffee bars.

The Falkland flyers were airborne again. Desire Petroleum and friends romped ahead, prompting some observers to cry "ramp". Shares of Desire, seeking oil and gas off the Falkland Islands, rose 53.5p to 317.5p, dragging Westmount 20p higher to 180p and Greenwich Resources 3p to 29.75p.

DAWSON HOLDINGS, one of the 10 founders of the Alternative Investment Market in 1995, was unchanged at 176p against a 225p high. The shares have been as low as 49p. Dawson is now worth £106m against £25m at the time of the AIM launch. The newspaper and magazine distributor, which has one of the largest libraries in the world, has applied for a full share listing and hopes to arrive on the main market tomorrow.

AMBERLEY, a chemical group which has evolved from a damp-proofing business, is set for sharp profits progress, suggest stockbroker Sutherlands. It expects to see the group report £7.3m this year (against £6.1m) and then £8.5m. "The ambitions of the management to take a quantum leap on the acquisition trail should not be underestimated," says the broker. The shares held at 109.5p, not far from their peak.

# Big deals fail to shift FKI's share price

IF YOU NEED proof that corporate activity doesn't necessarily boost share prices, look no further than FKI. In the past three years it has raised a £130m war chest, spent £200m on two electronic engineering businesses, had a failed bid at hardware group Newman Tonks and then strengthened its material handling operations by buying Bridon, the under-performing engineering group, for £131m. Finally it sold its automotive division for £28m last November.

All this has done precious little for FKI's shareholders. Despite yesterday's 6p rise to 193p, the shares have made almost no progress in the past two years, while the rest of the stock market has raced ahead.

Investors are clearly concerned that all this buying and selling is masking a dull underlying performance. But yesterday FKI made a good stab at changing their minds with a solid set of full-year results.

Allowing for the distorting effects of acquisitions, restructuring and disposals, FKI's businesses are clearly growing. On a comparable basis, various parts of the materials handling division grew sales by between 6 and 11 per cent. And although margins

## INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

were diluted by the Bridon deal they should recover.

Meanwhile, the hardware division increased its profits by 15 per cent despite a dull US housing market. The engineering businesses responded to restructuring with better profits.

FKI now says it is concentrating on its three divisions. Growth will come from opening up new markets - especially in Latin America - the introduction of new products and a continuing relentless drive to improve margins.

The only acquisitions will be bolt-ons - chief executive Bob Beeston reckons the company could comfortably spend £200m without having to raise more cash.

Brokers predict that profits will rise to around £15m this year, placing the shares on a cheap-looking forward earnings multiple of just 10. But the risk remains that the company will be tempted to blow it all with another big deal. Until FKI proves it is happy to con-

centrate on the businesses it already owns, the shares are no more than a hold.

## GWR likes the sound of digital

RALPH BERNARD, GWR's chief executive, makes no secret of his disdain for the regulation of Britain's commercial radio industry. That's no surprise: under the current system the group, which counts Classic FM among its stations, is as large as it's allowed to get.

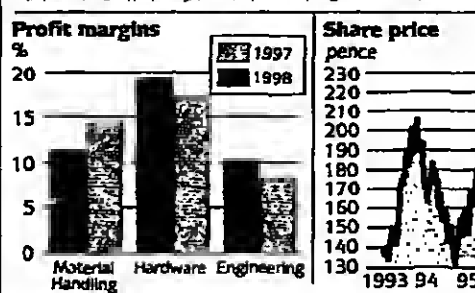
Not that results for the year to March, released yesterday, gave any sign of GWR's growth being constrained. Operating profit grew by 53 per cent to £14.5m on a 30 per cent increase in sales.

True, Classic FM was included for a full 12 months, compared to just three in the previous period. Nevertheless, the station is flourishing, with the number of listeners rising above 5 million. The cost of

## FKI: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.1bn, share price: 193p (+6p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	794.00	799.00	873.00	1003.00	1287.00
Pre-tax profits (£m)	52.20	55.40	90.10	87.60	145.00
Earnings per share (p)	7.96	7.39	11.30	9.22	15.98
Dividends per share (p)	3.50	4.46	5.20	6.60	7.50



launching Opus, its national advertising sales operation, has also held back GWR.

GWR's future, however, rests largely on digital radio. If the GWR-led consortium, which includes Chris Evans' Ginger Group and Talk Radio, wins the digital radio franchise Mr Bernard reckons it will cost GWR between £1m and £1.5m a year to get the service up and running.

More immediately, GWR is beefing up its overseas operations while looking at ways of expanding the Classic FM brand into other areas. It is also

lobbying the government to ease ownership restrictions.

With the returns from digital uncertain, and no immediate change to regulation in sight, investors are better concentrating on current earnings prospects. Analysts forecast profits of £18m, putting the shares - up 6p to 239.5p yesterday - on a forward p/e ratio of 22. For now, they are high enough.

## Success story in local papers

TO THE untrained eye, local newspapers and convenience stores would appear to have little in common, apart from the fact that you can buy the former in the latter. But Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers disagrees.

The company, which yesterday reported a 47 per cent increase in profit to £11m, believes that the complementary nature of its 20 regional papers and 184 local shops will deliver long-term growth.

The rationale seems simple enough: the steady earnings stream of local retailing helps to offset the cyclical swings of the newspaper business, where advertising revenue is at the mercy of the vagaries of the economy.

Not that Portsmouth and Sunderland needs to worry about its publishing business just at the moment. Last year, operating profit at its newspaper stable, which includes the Portsmouth News and the Sunderland Echo, rose 35 per cent, outdoing the retailing arm where earnings were up 32 per cent.

The growth was driven by higher advertising revenue, with recruitment ads up by a third on the back of a buoyant labour market. Revenues rose by another 10 per cent in April and May.

However, with local advertising approaching a peak Portsmouth and Sunderland remains vulnerable to a downturn. And the stores, which contributed 28 per cent of profits last year, will offer only limited protection.

The shares jumped 163p yesterday to an all-time high of 1125.5p. On a multiple of around 15 times house broker HSCB Securities' earnings forecast, the shares look about right.

## Hint of US visit aids yen

THE US Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers may travel to Tokyo in the next few days for a special meeting on the Japan's ailing economy, the Treasury's chief spokesman said.

The Treasury disclosed the possible trip after the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* newspaper reported that Mr Summers would arrive on Thursday for "emergency discussions" with Japanese Finance Minister Hitaru Matsumaga and Eisuke Sakakibara, vice finance minister for international affairs.

Earlier yesterday Japanese Vice Finance Minister Koji Tanami said that overseas central banks wouldn't let the yen weaken further, suggesting a coordinated move to sell dollars and buy yen might be organised. Mr Tanami's comments helped send the dollar slumping, a day after the dollar rose above 146 yen for the first time since August 1990.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	10000											
Australia	27857	27839	27749	27659	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Austria	20337	20337	20337	20337	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Belgium	61337	61337	61337	61337	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Canada	2434	2434	2434	2434	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Denmark	11338	11338	11338	11338	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
ECU	15062	15062	15062	15062	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Finland	90473	90473	90473	90473	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
France	9984	9984	9984	9984	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Germany	29730	29730	29730	29730	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Greece	53844	53844	53844	53844	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Hong Kong	12789	12789	12789	12789	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Italy	17758	17758	17758	17758	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Japan	23827	23827	23827	23827	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Malaysia	67077	67077	67077	67077	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Mexico	14033	14033	14033	14033	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Netherlands	33543	33543	33543	33543	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
New Zealand	12252	12252	12252	12252	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Norway	12252	12252	12252	12252	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Portugal	30418	30418	30418	30418	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Saudi Arabia	67077	67077	67077	67077	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Singapore	28825	28825	28825	28825	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
South Africa	67077	67077	67077	67077	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Sweden	28825	28825	28825	28825	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
Switzerland	24769	24769	24769	24769	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364
US	16527	16527	16527	16527	10801	10801	10801	10801	16364	16364	16364	16364

## OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	16227	10000	Oman	68882	03850
Brazil	12909	1545	Pakistan	73483	44490
China	13678	82780	Philippines	88825	41800
Czech Rep	56881	36800	Poland	58800	35216
Egypt	61823	34025	Qatar	67077	33538
France	38824	28825	Russia	30337	67077
Hungary	38824	28825	South Korea	28825	143000
India	67077	28825	Taiwan	34780	34780
Indonesia	67077	28825	Thailand	11338	43750
Kuwait	20337	10801	Turkey	28825	38825
Nigeria	16527	24769	UK	67077	36730

## INTEREST RATES

UK	Germany	US	Japan	Other
Base Rate	2.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
3 month	3.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%
6 month	3.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%
1 year	4.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
2 year	4.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
3 year	5.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%
4 year	5.50%	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%
5 year	6.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%

## BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year
Australia	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Belgium	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Canada	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
ECU	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
France	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Germany	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Italy	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Japan	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Netherlands	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Portugal	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Spain	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Sweden	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Switzerland	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
UK	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
US	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17

## MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Libor	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Commercial Paper	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Bankers' Acceptance	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17
Repo	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17

## INDUSTRIAL METALS

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Aluminum	lb	1.50	+0.01
Copper	lb	1.20	+0.01
Gold	oz	350.00	+0.50
Iron Ore	ton	100.00	+0.10
Nickel	lb	1.80	+0.01
Palladium	oz	1500.00	+10.00
Platinum	oz	800.00	+5.00
Silver	oz	12.00	+0.01
Steel	ton	50.00	+0.01
Zinc	lb	1.00	+0.01

## LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High
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## SPORT

# US Open: Stung by criticism of his performance last year, the American is out to prove he has the accuracy to win

## Woods ready for graduation

BY ANDY FARRELL  
in San Francisco

THEY COULD have been a few friends out for a round on a perfect morning for golf. Only two things gave a hint that this was not a usual occurrence, a large gallery having already gathered at 7.20am and the fact that this was a practice round for the 98th US Open, which starts tomorrow. But Tiger Woods, Casey Martin and Joel Kribel certainly looked like old chums out to enjoy themselves.

Woods and Martin are, in fact, old chums, having been on the same golf team at Stanford University. Kribel, a Walker Cup player, is a current resident at the establishment known as the Harvard of the West and which is only half an hour down the road from Olympic at Palo Alto.

Between them, Woods and Martin have been the most talked about golfers in America over the last two years. Woods, obviously, for his astonishing entrance on to the professional scene and his Masters victory last year. Martin for winning a case against the US Tour to allow him to ride a cart in competition.

Yesterday, however, Martin may have reminded Woods of the time he took \$80 (£50) off the future world No 1 in a college game. Woods had been ruled by another member of that Stanford team, Notah Begay, who has created headlines of his own on the Nike Tour this year for scoring a 59. The following day Woods, in an attempt to get his money back, lost another \$100 to Martin. "I still have his cheque for \$180," Martin said.

Woods could have had his pick of golf scholarships. "I was lucky enough where I could have gone to a lot of schools, but I figured you only get the chance once in a lifetime to go to a great institution like Stanford," he said. Woods quit his degree in business administration after two years to turn pro, but has promised his mother he will finish the course by correspondence at some time in the future.

Already famous in golf as an amateur sensation when he matriculated at Stanford, his reputation did not count for much. "I was just another student. I just fitted in," he said. It was probably the last time he was able to go given that now he can't go to a convenience store without causing attention.

But while Woods could have got away with majoring solely in golf at other institutions, that was not the case at Stanford. "It was hard, I had a couple of friends, one of them had a photographic memory and my



Tiger Woods warms up for the US Open by practising in the familiar surroundings of the Olympic Club yesterday

Reuters

room-mate never studied but he was always getting As. I kept asking: 'How do you do that?' but obviously he was just incredibly bright."

"It was neat to see all these people who were brilliant at whatever they do. College golf was tough. It was 36 holes, getting up at five in the morning, get back at night and study, play 36 again the next day, fly home and then pull all-nighters to catch up. I was always raised by my parents with the rule that I could not go and practice until I had done my homework."

Every Monday, Woods and his team-mates would either play at the San Francisco course or at the Olympic Club. The lay-out, which has hosted three previous US Opens, was designed by another Stanford man, George Thomas, in the early 1920s.

Olympic is a course Woods knows well, although he usually played there during the winter. "It should be playing shorter this week than when I have played it in the past," he said. But although Olympic is one of those courses which is always a test - the members cannot move the

trees which line the fairways - Woods has yet to play it with the US Open specification five-inch rough.

The need for accuracy, rather than power, puts a doubt against Woods' chance of victory this week. Johnny Miller, a former US Open champion who grew up in San Francisco, thinks it may prove fatal. "The hardest thing for a big hitter to do is to throttle back and make themselves into something they're not," Miller said. "Woods will be hitting a lot of two-irons off the tees, leaving himself with a similar sec-

ond shot to everyone else. Put him 180 yards out from the green and he becomes just another player."

Criticism along similar lines from last year's US Open at Congressional, where he failed to contend, stung Woods, according to his coach, Butch Harmon. "Tiger has been looking forward to this week all year after some of the things written at Congressional," Harmon said.

Woods tees up tomorrow with England's Lee Westwood and Tom Watson, who, although from a different generation, is another Stan-

ford graduate. Watson, despite going through a divorce, has rediscovered his spark and quit drinking last November. Seeing his 15-year-old son Michael's enthusiasm for golf has helped. "He makes me go back to my childhood and relive the feeling I had playing golf," Watson said.

A win at the Colonial last month means Watson has returned to the scene of his defeat by Scott Simpson in the 1987 US Open in good heart. A Watson-Woods play-off next Monday would make news - not just in their college alumni magazine.

## Martin has early cart and car trouble

MAKING YOUR debut in the US Open is nerve-racking enough without having the sort of bad transportation day that Casey Martin suffered on Monday, writes Andy Farrell.

The 26-year-old from Eugene, Oregon will make history tomorrow by becoming the first player to be allowed to use a cart instead of walking in the US Open. But Martin had problems even before he stepped at the Olympic Club.

"I got a flat tyre on the highway on the way to the course," Martin said. "We were out there pushing on the spare tyre and I nearly missed my tee time."

While others were finding out what sort of driving course Olympic is off the tee, Martin was discovering the venue is also a tough driving course for those on four-wheels. In order to complete his 18 holes, he needed three different vehicles.

The first was a single-seater buggy designated by the US Golf Association as their preferred mode of transportation, but it did not make it the full length of the par-five first. "At first I couldn't get it to start and when I finally got it started, it wouldn't stop," Martin said. "I got through about 200 yards at the first."

Next up was an even smaller vehicle but that could not cope with the wet grass on a hill at the second. "It nearly slipped me over," he said.

Martin, who suffers from a degenerative circulatory disease in his right leg and won a court case against the US PGA Tour to use a cart in competition, limped on to the fourth hole when he was given a regular two-seater.

But the Nike Tour player, who has not yet played in a regular tour event, remained enthusiastic about playing in his first major. "This is a dream come true," he said. "I am just going to try and enjoy it."

The defending champion, Ernie Els, swinging tentatively played his first practice round yesterday despite the back spasms which forced him out of the Buick Classic last week. "It is better now," said Els, who last Friday saw the specialist recommended by Davis Love. "I have a new exercise programme but I need as much rest as possible."

## Pitch poses selection problem

CRICKET  
BY DEREK PRINGLE

THE PITCH and surrounds were not the only things under the weather at Lord's yesterday, as England set about preparing for the second Test against South Africa, due to start tomorrow. Three players, the captain Alec Stewart, Michael Atherton and Mark Butcher, are nursing ailments or injuries, though none are thought serious enough to require replacements.

Stewart, who did not venture to the nets, is suffering from a mild bout of food poisoning picked up during Surrey's last Championship match against Essex, the same opponents Butcher bruised his hand against.

Following the heavy rain of the last few days, practice was a light-weight affair, with players unable to do much. After a brief bat in the nets, Atherton, nursing a heavy cold, left to spend the rest of the day in bed. "He didn't want to infect the rest of the squad," explained the chairman of selectors David Graveney.

Meanwhile, concerns over the condition of the playing surface continue to keep the groundstaff on tenterhooks. The clay-based pitch - in spite of absorbing a good deal of damp from the atmosphere - is not, however, the main problem, though it might tempt either team to leave out their specialist spinner. Instead, it is the saturated outfield that threatens to delay a prompt start should more rain fall between now

and 11am tomorrow. With a full house as well as the magnificent new £11.5m Grandstand due to be unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh, Lord's will not want another first day wash-out like last year.

Exactly when the game starts will be crucial to team selection and Graveney insisted that, despite reports to the contrary, Chris Silverwood is not 13th man, and would be considered for selection along with the other bowlers.

The feeling persists that seam bowling, as was the case here last year in similar conditions, is almost certain to dominate. "There is a lot of moisture in the pitch at present," said Graveney. "We will not be sending for another spinner," he said as he watched nets.

Unfortunately, nothing quite as assertive was managed by the International Cricket Council, who having spent the last week discussing the game's global welfare, were thought to be about to announce a method of determining who was the best Test team in the world. Announcing the outcome of their annual conference, the president of the ICC, Jagmohan Dalmiya, confirmed that there were still "details that needed fine-tuning."

The choice appears to be between a stand-alone Test Championship and a Test ladder. Considering most countries have a well entrenched Test programme already in place, a stand-alone competition would be disruptive and could only be played between the end

of September and November, a time that would not suit England (end of a hard season) or Australia (not enough cricket), the two countries thought to be the main dissenters.

On the other hand, a ladder system offering two points for a series win and one point for a draw would need to become more equitable. Teams would have to play each other home and away, in series consisting of no less than three Tests, over a period of four or five years.

At present, countries like Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka get little more than the odd token Test - which is exactly how the one at Lord's could turn out, unless the sun decides to put in a sustained appearance over the next few days.

## Jackson beats young sprinters to 100m place

ATHLETICS  
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

THE YOUNG sprinters hoping to take Linford Christie's place when Britain defend the European Cup in 10 days' time have been disregarded in favour of a 31-year-old hurdler. Britain's selectors have chosen Colin Jackson to double up in St Petersburg and run in the 100 metres event, previously the domain of his friend Christie, who retired last summer.

Thus the rising generation of domestic 100m runners - including Julian Golding, the world junior record holder Dwain Chambers, Christie's own protégé Darren Campbell and the European indoor silver medalist Jason Gardner - have been effectively told they still have plenty to prove. "We have half a dozen young guys who are very good," the national coach, Max Jones, said yesterday. "But at this stage of the season nobody has put up his head and said 'I'm the one'."

"Colin has already run 10.32sec this season and he was disappointed with that. He won't run any slower than that in St Petersburg. He's the sort of guy who produces the goods on the day. It has been a difficult decision but at the end of the day you have to be hard-headed about it. If they all lined up together right now, Colin would win."

Jackson rarely runs the flat sprint, but he has more time on his hands than he expected, having been forced through circumstances beyond his control to shelve his original idea of combining the hurdles with the long jump at the European Cup.

The Welshman has started his season better than any since 1993, when he set the current world 110m hurdles record. Last Saturday, in Helsinki, he defeated the Olympic sil-

ver medalist Mark Crear in a season's best of 13.12sec.

Jackson last doubled up at a major event in 1994, when he won at 80m and 60m hurdles in the European Indoor Championships. After winning the sprint, he swore he would never try such a combination again - but now he has changed his mind.

Britain's men are fielding what Jones describes as probably their strongest possible choice, but the women's team has been depleted by injuries to three of their leading figures, as well as the retirement of Sally Gunnell. Kelly Holmes has yet to start her season as she attempts to recover from an Achilles injury. Denise Lewis, the world heptathlon silver medalist, has a nagging ankle injury and Ashia Hansen is still suffering from the heel injury she incurred in winning the world indoor triple jump title earlier this year.

**GREAT BRITAIN TEAM** (for European Cup, St Petersburg, Russia, 27-28 June): 100m: A. Jackson (Bristol); 200m: C. Jackson (Bristol); 400m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 800m: C. Jackson (Bristol); 1500m: J. Maynard (GEC Aviation); 3000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 5000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 10000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 20000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 40000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 80000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 160000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 320000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 640000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 1280000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 2560000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 5120000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 10240000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 20480000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 40960000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 81920000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 163840000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 327680000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 655360000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 1310720000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 2621440000m: M. A. Hart (Leamington); 5242880000m: M. A. 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# England taught lesson by Academy

**RUGBY UNION**  
By Chris Hewitt  
in Invercargill

NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY 50  
ENGLAND 32

GENERALLY SPEAKING, there is only one possible result when a scratch collection of fresh-faced rugby apprentices find themselves confronted by a battle-hardened raiding party of grown-up tourists. Sadly for Clive Woodward's he-nighted England squad, New Zealand's latest generation of All Black wannabes are formidable physical specimens handsomely equipped with pace, attitude and more oomph than they know what to do with. The only seven-stone weaklings on view here yesterday were dressed in white.

The so-called boys beat the so-called men with something to spare, although England pressed hard for a tantalising 10 minutes or so in the final quarter. Tony Diprose, Ben Sturman, Dave Sims and the outstanding Rob Fidler applied the thumbscrews so effectively that the New Zealand pack ran out of ball for long periods of the second half and had it not been for Colin Hawke's peculiar reading of the hanky-panky going on in the scrums, the heavy maul might have squeezed out the unlikelyst of comeback victories.

As it was, Hawke penalised the England front row for no logical reason as they laid a late siege to the opposition line and having lost their precious field position, the tourists contrived to concede two wholly

lamentable tries to Pita Alatini and Bruce Reihana. In truth, it was more than the young New Zealanders - average age, 22 - deserved. Reihana, an intelligent footballing left wing from Waikato, was one of three "students" to claim a brace of scores while Alatini, the local hero from Southland, gave flashing hints of an All Black centre in the making.

Certainly, Alatini and company were far too direct and dynamic for a half-baked England back division in which Alex King, the gifted Wasps outside-half with a Test place for the taking, looked horribly short of form, fitness and confidence. "We were so naive outside, which was pretty rough on the forward pack," admitted Woodward afterwards. "Some of the tackling, or lack of it, was unacceptable from professional rugby players performing at this level."

Indeed, the girls of Meuzies College and Southland High School weighed in with heavier hits during a highly competitive curtain-raiser.

Woodward must have felt like weeping as he watched his mid-weekers fritter away the fruits of last Saturday's encouraging performance in Hamilton. The Academy were 14 points up inside eight minutes through tries from the huge Istolo Maka, who may well travel to next year's World Cup as a ball-carrying No 8, and Byron Kelleher, the Otago scrum-half who gained recent Super 12 experience with Otago.

To their credit, England found their feet sufficiently quickly to level the scores by the end of the first quarter. George Chuter, marking his tour debut with a subterranean try from a line-out maul, and Dominic Chapman capitalising on Jos Baxendale's inventive grubber into the New Zealand in-goal area. But Reihana's opener on 33 minutes exposed the powder-puff quality of the visiting defence and further tries by Maka and Kelleher either side of the break left Diprose's out-paced side panting in the foothills of the proverbial sporting mountain.

Close-range strikes from Scott Benton on 60 and 64 minutes, allied to Tim Stimpson's excellent goal-kicking, gave England a glimmer, but the brave new dawn failed to materialise. "I'm bitterly disappointed with that," admitted Woodward afterwards. Come Saturday in Dunedin, he may be forced to dredge his vocabulary for something stronger. From this vantage point,



Scott Benton, scorer of two tries for England, bursts through the New Zealand defence in Invercargill yesterday. Allsport

## Cotton cleared by RFU

FRAN COTTON, who resigned as vice-chairman of the Rugby Football Union management board in April, has been cleared of bringing the game into disrepute.

The RFU council on which Cotton represents Lancashire have decided to take no further action, following an inquiry by a three-man panel into statements made by Cotton to the media in recent weeks, which were critical of the RFU's dealings with the top clubs.

An RFU statement today said: "Mr Cotton denied that he had publicly accused the president of the RFU, Peter Brook, of betraying the union, and stated that he had not called for England to be thrown out of the international board. The council, on hearing these denials, unanimously decided to take no further action."

Former England captain Cotton, also manager of the victorious British Lions in South Africa last summer, said: "I'm free to carry on the debate about some RFU policies. The Special General Meeting that I am calling will go ahead around the start of the season."

The SGM will include a vote of no confidence in the RFU council, who would have had the power to ban Cotton from all rugby if they had proved the charges of disrepute.

## Gilmore sets up gallant recovery

IRELAND FARED the best of the British Isles teams on tour yesterday when they beat the South African side North West 26-18 in Potchefstroom, though Scotland mounted a gallant late fight-back in Brisbane but it was not enough to prevent them losing to the Super 12 side Queensland 27-22.

However, just three days after losing 45-3 to Australia, Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, will have been pleased with the turnaround, watching with his side come back from 20-6 down at half-time. Hugh Gilmore, a replacement for Derrick Lee, led the recovery. He went on a good dash down the left wing to set up good position before Duncan Hodge's fourth penalty punished a punch thrown by Queensland's Mark Murray.

And it was his lively run 11 minutes from the end that gave the Scots real hope. Although he was forced into touch two yards from the line, the hooker Steven Brotherton dived over from the line-out for Hodge to convert.

The last 10 minutes was full of Scottish endeavour, lacking in the first 70, and although they showed more imagination they only had another Hodge penalty to show for their efforts. Scotland, though, could even have been worse off had the talented Queensland fly-half Shane Drumm not missed three penalty attempts.

Jason Little, the Queensland captain, was full of praise for Scotland's battling effort. "They have improved tremendously since the first game in Fiji," he said. "They are in a rebuilding phase and are improving every game. I think they will be very happy with their tour."

Roh Wainwright, the Scotland captain watching before the second Test against Australia on Saturday, was delighted with his side's efforts in the second half. He said: "We came out a lot more forward in the second half. I think we were unlucky in some respects over the last two weeks. We have played with a lot of commitment and flair especially in the last 20 minutes. We have come away with two close losses."

In Potchefstroom, David Humphreys converted six out of six penalties in the first half as Ireland surged into an 18-6 lead at the interval over North West. His performance and Richard Wallace's solo try did their hopes of securing a place in Ireland's Test team against South Africa on Saturday no harm.

However, North West, who have not defeated a touring side since 1955, came out fired up in the second half and scored two tries in the opening 10 minutes, one converted to make it 18-18. The Irish went back in front with Wallace's effort in the 57th minute, which Humphreys this time failed to convert, although he added his seventh penalty kick 10 minutes before the end for the 26-18 victory.

Meanwhile, across the country in East London, Wales slumped 24-8 to Border, the second consecutive defeat of their South African tour. Border held the advantage in terms of territory and possession to make the most of a scrappy, error-ridden match. Play rarely advanced to either 22-metre area and the forwards saw most of the action.

Wales fortunes are unlikely to change in their next match, against the powerful Natal on Friday. They were unable to impose themselves on supposedly inferior opposition after trailing 14-8 at the break. Although Wales won plenty of possession, they did not manage to add a single point in the second half.

## St Helens and Howes part ways

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
By Dave Hadfield

DAVID HOWES has resigned from his job as chief executive at St Helens with two years of his contract still to run. Although his departure was described by club chairman Tim Ellard as "amicable", it comes against a background of a power struggle at a club which Howes has helped through one of its more successful periods of modern time.

Under Howes and Shaun McRae, the coach he brought to Knowsley Road, Saints won the inaugural Super League Championship in 1996 and Challenge Cup that year and the following season, but his position has looked increasingly uncomfortable since the club board appointed Eric Hughes, the coach Howes sacked in 1996, as Football Operations Manager without consulting him.

Eric Ashton, who brought Howes to the club, resigned as chairman last December claiming that he did not have the support of the rest of the directors. The current board had recently rejected two take-over bids, which could have provided the finance Howes believes is necessary to keep Saints among the elite clubs.

The former public affairs executive at the Rugby League, Howes has been linked with a role at Leeds as well as with a prospective South Wales franchise.

Kelvin Skerrett is the surprise choice, ahead of Leeds' Iestyn Harris, to captain Wales against England at Wdnes on 19 July. Harris has led Leeds through their unbeaten start to the Super League season - a run only ended at Hull on Sunday - but the Welsh coach, Clive Griffiths, has gone instead for the former Wigan prop forward, who has been in good if typically turbulent form for Halifax this year.

Two dual internationals returning temporarily from rugby union are included; Rowland Phillips, the former Warrington and Workington forward who is now with Griffiths at London Welsh and Paul Moriarty, once with Widnes and Halifax, who now plays for Swansea.

Salford coach Andy Gregory attended a meeting with club chairman John Wilkinson to discuss the side's losing streak yesterday, but no immediate changes are in the offing.

Gregory, whose continuing role as coach is a subject of speculation, said after their latest defeat at Halifax on Sunday that he wanted to bring in new players, but Salford are constrained by their salary cap.

# Sampras starting with Slovak

**TENNIS**  
By John Roberts

THERE WAS the odd patch of blue above the All England Club yesterday when Alan Mills, the Wimbledon referee, announced "the draw to play Pete Sampras in the first match on the Centre Court at 2 o'clock on Monday - we hope!"

Dry humour in wet weather is par for the course for Mills, who is praying that tennis's premier fortnight will escape a soaking similar to last year.

Drawn to meet Sampras at the start of the American world No 1's campaign is Dominik Hrbaty, a 20-year-old Slovak, who was beaten in the first round a year ago.

Sampras remembers Hrbaty leading him 4-3 in the fifth set of a fourth-round match on a sweltering day at the 1997 Australian Open. Sampras recovered to win 6-4, describing the performance as his most satisfying in Australia, because of the difficult conditions. We wait to see if Hrbaty is as water-proof as the four-times Wimbledon champion.

The Chilean Marcelo Rios, seeded to play Sampras in the final, starts against Spain's Francisco Clavet and may play either Richard Krajicek, the 1996 champion, or Cedric Pioline, the runner-up last year, if he reaches the quarter-finals.

Britain boasts two seeds in the men's singles for the first time since 1936, when Fred Perry, indisputably No 1, last won the trophy for the old country and Bunny Austin, his Davis Cup team-mate, was seeded No 7.

Whether both Britain's seeds will actually play on this occasion depends on the recovery of a partially torn ligament in Greg Rusedski's left ankle. Seeded No 4, Rusedski is due to open against one of the hungry men trying to qualify at Roehampton.

Rusedski is to have another scan on his injured ankle today in an attempt to find out whether his chances of making it to Wimbledon have improved. Rusedski was initially given a "less than 50-50 chance" of recovering in time after a fall during a third-round match against qualifier Laurence Tielemans at Queen's Club last Friday. Since then, he has been receiving intensive treatment three times a day from a physiotherapist in London. His coach, Tony Pickard, said: "Greg is walking and putting weight on his ankle again. He will have another MRI scan to see what progress is being made."

The second round is likely to bring the American Todd Martin, a semi-finalist in 1994 and 1996. Should Rusedski still be around to play later in the tournament, he might have an opportunity to trade serves and returns with Goran Ivanisevic in the last 16.

Tim Henman, the No 12 seed from Oxford, plays Jiri Novak in the first round. A tall Czech with a useful forehand, Novak was a quarter-

finalist as a junior in 1993, but has not advanced beyond the second round in two visits as a senior.

Henman, a quarter-finalist for the past two years, is projected to play Australia's Pat Rafter in the last 16, and Petr Korda or Andre Agassi in the last eight. Sampras could be a tantalising semi-final target, but we must take things step by step.

The same can be said about Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, who are seeded to meet in the quarter-finals and have been drawn in the opposite half to Martina Hingis, the 17-year-old defending champion and world No 1. Graf, the seven-times champion,

is in the process of rehabilitating from various ailments to her left leg following knee surgery a year ago. The 29-year-old German is drawn against Gala Leon Garcia, of Spain, in the first round, and may exchange punishing forehands with Mary Pierce in the last 16.

Seles's form and confidence was a tonic at the French Open. Competing less than a fortnight after the death of her father and coach, Karoly, she reached the final, in which she was beaten by Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Another Sanchez will play Seles in the first round, Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, from Barcelona, ranked No 71.

Hingis, seeded to meet Lindsay Davenport in the final, faces a potentially tricky opening match against another American, Lisa Raymond. The Swiss will be holding their breath lest Hingis plays Patty Schnyder, her Fed Cup team-mate, in the last 16.

Venus Williams, 18 today, and Anna Kournikova, 17, are in Hingis's half of the draw and are projected to meet in the fourth round.

Only one British player is guaranteed a place in the second round of either of the singles championships. Two wild card entries, Karen Cross (No 138) and Jo Ward (No 195), meet in round one.

After long rain delays yesterday a former Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek, beat Australian Richard Fromberg, 7-6 4-6, 7-6 in the Heineken Trophy grass-court event in Rosmalen. Krajicek was joined in the second round by his compatriot John van Lottum, who upset the German fifth seed, Nicolas Pietrangeli, 7-5, 6-4.

SERENA WILLIAMS fought her way to victory in her first ever grass court match this afternoon, defeating Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan to reach the second round of the Direct Line Insurance Championships at Eastbourne.

Watched by sister Venus and mother Brandi, Williams stole a first break at 3-2 and a second break to lead 5-2 in the first set. She then held two set points in the next game before Sawamatsu gained her first break of the match. Williams, though, completed the task at her next attempt, and then mirrored the first set by breaking to lead 3-2 in the second.

But, while often overwhelmed by Williams's powerful ground strokes, Sawamatsu began to keep more balls in play in the furious rallies, and

her persistence paid off when she levelled at 4-4. But Williams quickly broke back to lead 6-5 and then served out for a 99-minute 6-4, 7-5 victory.

There were also opening day victories for eighth seed Ai Sugiyama of Japan, who overcame Poland's Magdalena Gzybowska 6-4, 6-4, and Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand, who defeated Anne Miller of the United States by the same score.

Anna Kournikova, seeded for a quarter-final with Steffi Graf tomorrow, overcame a minor scare before progressing. The young Russian had to endure the loss of the first set and a delay for rain of almost an hour early in the final set before she survived 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 against France's Alexandra Fusai.

## Rios makes early exit

By Guy Hodgson

PRESUMABLY MARCELO RIOS wants to play on grass - why bother entering the Nottingham Open if he does not? - but he hides it very well. Last year he slumped ignominiously out of the event in the first round and yesterday he staged a repeat. He was little short of a disgrace.

Rios is No.2 in the world but the responsibility that goes with that rank is lost on the Chilean. Some players fight for every point, he gave the impression he would have rolled over if the wind had irked him, losing nine games in succession in going down 3-6, 6-4, 6-0 to Gianluca Pozzi.

If Pozzi, who at 33 today is the oldest player in the top 200, had been a grass court specialist Rios could have pleaded something in mitigation but the Italian's hest surface is clay and he takes to volleys with the enthusiasm of a duck to an orange sauce. By the end, his supremacy was such he might as well have been Pete Sampras.

Rios lost his serve at 4-4 in the second set and from that point stopped running. If the feet were not right he would smash the ball hard anyway, if he had to stretch he did so only grudgingly, the impression he gave was of a man desperate to get off court. "I always want to win," he said. "Maybe it doesn't look like that but I always try hard. It's difficult to come to grass without any practice and I have had only 25 minutes since I got here."

Rios's next appointment was a lawn court match at Wimbledon where, if he performs like he did

here, he will be vying to be the weakest No.2 seed in history. "Maybe I'm not mentally ready to play on grass," he said. "I like to hit the ball really cleanly, and when I can't I get fed up." Not as fed up as the people yesterday who had paid good money to watch him.

At least Cedric Pioline, last year's Wimbledon runner-up, gave good value in beating Sweden's Tomas Nydahl. The Frenchman, too, had managed only 20 minutes practice but he still managed to win 6-4, 6-4. "My game is going well," he said. "I just need matches."

So do Britain's Martin Lee and Barry Cowan but they will have to wait until Wimbledon to get them. Lee lost 6-1, 6-4 to Argentina's Guillermo Canas while Cowan was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Richey Reneberg of the United States.

## Williams making her first mark on grass

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## French give Tricolores top priority

MAJOR CHANGES have been agreed between the French Rugby Federation and the country's leading clubs to give the national side top priority.

Bernard Lappasset, whose presidency of the Federation was extended for a further two years at the same meeting on Sunday, was delighted with the outcome. "The clubs have agreed that the well-being of the national side is of paramount importance and they have given the governing body their full support."

The Federation will have first call on the leading players for 12 weeks during the season and the players will be contracted for up to 10 international matches per year. It was also agreed to create a new national league comprising 24 clubs and to expand the base of the game beyond its traditional heartland in the south of the country.

Of more immediate significance to the game this side of the Channel is Lappasset's confirmation that the French clubs had given their full support to the Heineken European Cup and that they would not seek to establish any rival competition without the Federation's approval. This will be a major blow to the top English clubs who had hoped to form an Anglo-French competition.



**LEADING STAY:** Front-runner who will find it hard to make a move here.  
**Ganga:** Should stay this distance well and goes on soft ground. Each-way chance.  
**Sutela:** Breeze long last time but held in high regard and might surprise.  
**Monitor:** Been long way on reappearance and hard to fancy in this tougher contest.  
**High Intrigue:** Stays much further than this and likely to be outpaced.

**VERDICT:** Already proven an easy ground, **SARADILLA**, an overconfidence at Epimeni, should go well. His **ESPORT** good too.



7-1 Silver Wye, 8-1 Winsford H&B, 10-1 World Express, 12-1 others







Group G: Colombia and Romania offer limited threat as England reflect on their opening victory over Tunisia

# Valderrama and Hagi are living in the past

GLENN HODDLE will have learned much about the Colombians' ability to deal with the British game from watching tapes of their 2-2 draw with Scotland in America last month. Their defeat against Romania in Lyons on Monday will have served only to underline a few things he already knew. Specifically, if England play to anywhere near their full potential they will breeze past the South Americans.

Carlos Valderrama is still trying to be the fulcrum of every move, but at almost 37 he would be considered a geriatric rather than a veteran in the British game. The proud possessor of world football's dodgiest haircut, the top of his head bears a striking resemblance to a burst sofa; considering he has the mo-



PAT NEVIN

bility to match, his decision to retire from international football after the World Cup looks to be a good one.

Up front Faustino Asprilla is one

of those players who is loved by the fans of any team he plays for, but who alternately delights and then infuriates his managers.

For those who have played and trained with him, he remains one of the select band whose skills are talked of in hushed reverential tones. Against Romania he looked the only player capable of causing any real threat to their defence. His work rate was quite exceptional, but the lack of quality support from Valderrama, Freddy Rincon and Harold Lozano made his task of breaking down a solid defence an impossible one. When he was substituted with six minutes to go it looked like an acceptance of defeat rather than a last throw of the dice to retrieve the situation.

It can only be hoped that when they return home to Colombia after the inevitable first round exit the drug cartels will have been betting on them losing for a change.

The Romanians of course can boast one of the last great mavericks still allowed to grace or disgrace the international stage. With more attitude than a posse of Brooklyn MCs, Gheorghe Hagi managed to show almost all the negative characteristics of his breed against Colombia. There was little or no effort to help his team, other than when he was on the ball himself, and by the second half he was more frequently passing to opponents than his own team-mates.

The petulant side of his character dominated and in the end Romania

were to all intents and purposes playing with 10 men. Anghel Iordanescu, the coach, finally plucked up the courage to drag him off and Hagi had the nerve to look surprised, even though he was by a long distance the worst player on the pitch.

England will hope that both Valderrama and Hagi will line up against them in the remaining group matches. Neither appear to have the appetite for a fight against an England team who savaged their Tunisian opponents in the first game.

The Romanians did have some solid performers in Dan Petrescu and Gheorghe Popescu, but they look like an ageing team who should also be summarily dismissed by a hungrier pack of English players. Only Adrian Ilie showed that he had

something that England will have to be wary of. His goal seconds before half-time will be one of the best, if not the best, in the tournament. His balance, pace and eye for goal were reminiscent of England's own starlet, Michael Owen. He even has a similar build to the young Liverpool striker. However, the organisation and determination of Campbell, Adams and Southgate, should deal with the lone threat from the 24-year-old Valencia forward.

On the basis of the first two games in the group, it looks as though England have had a fairly fortunate draw, but that is to take nothing away from their first performance. They had the look of a team who possessed the desire to

win at all costs. Hoddle should be congratulated in spotting the weaknesses in the North African side and preparing his charges suitably. Within the first 20 minutes they had bullied each member of the Tunisian defence and stopped just short of assaulting the goalkeeper. If only their "fans" had shown the same restraint down at the beach.

A win against Romania next Monday and England will be in the very desirable position of being able to rest some players for a game and allow a starting place for the likes of young Owen. On Monday's showing the Colombians would be unlikely to have enough guile to stop him, Shearer or Sheringham, and England could well finish the group with maximum points.

## Hoddle's praise inspires Scholes

BY GLENN MOORE  
in La Baule

EVERYONE AGREES that Paul Scholes is not only talented and destined for greatness but level-headed as well. "I could talk about him all day," Glenn Hoddle said yesterday. "It wouldn't affect him."

However, one comparison is a comparison too far. It was put to Teddy Sheringham that Scholes, who capped an outstanding performance against Tunisia in Marseilles on Monday with a stunning goal, could emulate Paul Gascoigne by bursting on to an unsuspecting global public through his World Cup performances.

Sheringham, who knows a few things about the perils of fame, said: "I don't doubt him but I wouldn't want to heap that on him. Maybe he doesn't need that at the moment."

Indeed, Gascoigne is barely out of the door and already the casting directors of press and public are seeking a replacement. This is something Scholes and England can do without. A decade has passed since Ian Botham's pomp, yet English cricket is still coming to terms with the realisation that he was a one-off.

So was Gascoigne and, perhaps fortunately, there is no prospect of Scholes ever filling the void he will eventually leave in the sport's psyche. He can, however, make just as big an impact as a player.

"This is a tournament where players have the chance of stamping their name around the world if we progress," Hoddle said as England relaxed at La Baule yesterday. "Paul has the talent - it's whether he has the opportunity."

"He was probably our best player on Monday. He did a lot of good things offensively, scored a super goal and could have had a hat-trick. I'm very pleased. He takes everything in his stride."

Scholes, 23, made his international debut against South Africa at Old Trafford only 13 months ago.

He would have played for England earlier but his progress into the team at Manchester United was delayed by Eric Cantona's presence.

His long-term development as a player had been helped by the Frenchman's example and, once capped, Scholes quickly progressed and starred last summer in Le Tournoi. He then overcame Sheringham's arrival at Old Trafford, and an asthma problem, to produce another impressive season. When Gascoigne self-destructed he was the obvious alternative. Monday was his eighth England cap and his fourth goal.

Hoddle said: "He gives you a penalty box threat, a threat from midfield. He can also play in different positions and with a more defensive head. But whatever position he plays he gives you quality."

"He is very down to earth. He does all his talking with his feet. He doesn't really relish going in front of the press and cameras. He knows how much I think of him and he responds to that. Some young players you have to knock down; with him you can build him up. It's part of the psychology of being a coach."

From a team-mate's perspective Sheringham echoed Hoddle's praise. "He was outstanding. I've seen him at first-hand all season and he is a clever little player. He can play one-touch, two-touch, or keep-ball. I love his awareness."

"He missed a couple of chances early on but still scored, which is a sign of a good player. When you miss a couple for England you feel maybe the tabloids will go on and say 'he's missed a couple of chances', but that was not in his thoughts."

"I can't think of anyone similar. I've never played with anyone like him. He helps me a lot, he creates space all over the place and keeps defenders on their toes."

For once Alan Shearer was left



Paul Scholes training yesterday: 'He takes everything in his stride,' Glenn Hoddle said Reuters

to take second billing, but Hoddle made sure he found a further word for his captain.

"Alan proved yesterday he does not need five or six chances to be on the scoresheet. I'm pleased he

is off the mark. It is good for a striker's confidence to score early in a tournament. The pressure is on the likes of him, not Scholes, and scoring lifts it a little."

"As a finisher from all angles,

scoring with right foot, left foot, head, inside or outside the box he is as good as I've ever seen or played with. He can improve in his movement but then, there are areas Ronaldo can improve on."

## African bid favoured by Blatter

BY RUPERT METCALF

ENGLAND'S HOPES of hosting the 2006 World Cup received a setback yesterday in Paris when Sepp Blatter, the newly elected president of world football's ruling body, FIFA, gave his support to an African bid.

England, South Africa and Germany have been the only three serious contenders to emerge so far. "An African country would have a very strong chance of winning the right to hold 2006," said Blatter, who added that as long as the country met the standards set down by FIFA then the governing body would favour their bid.

In last week's election for a new FIFA president, England switched candidates at a late stage. The Football Association had supported the bid of the UEFA president, Lennart Johansson, but then decided to back Blatter, apparently convinced it stood a better chance of winning the battle to host 2006 with the former FIFA general secretary as president rather than Johansson. The Swede had made no secret of his view that, if 2006 was to go to Europe, he would prefer to see it in Germany rather than England.

Soccer Australia, the country's football association, said yesterday that it was planning to bid for the 2010 World Cup, but would consider bringing its campaign forward if

hooligans wrecked England's hopes of hosting the tournament.

Meanwhile, Blatter is also unhappy that World Cup referees are not enforcing the tough stance they have been told to take on tackles from behind.

Match officials have been ordered to send a player off if he endangers the safety of an opponent with such a foul, but Blatter said: "They are not applying the ban on tackles from behind. It's not up to them to decide how fouls should be interpreted. There have been tackles from behind so far that deserved red cards."

Fifa has defended the referee of England's game against Tunisia after claims that he compromised himself by dining with a leading Football Association official on Sunday.

The FA referees' assessor, Ken Ridden, spent the evening prior to the game in the company of the Japanese referee, Masayoshi Okada, in a Marseilles hotel. However, FIFA's communications director, Keith Cooper, denied any suggestions of impropriety, explaining that Ridden is also a FIFA official.

"He was doing his job as a FIFA official, not as an FA official," Cooper said. "We have a system where referees have to be accompanied to matches by officials and Ken Ridden is one of the most respected around."

## Iranian anger over film

BY ANDREW LONGMORE  
in Yssingaux

A FILM broadcast on a private television channel has ended the uneasy truce between the Iranian team and their French hosts.

At an extraordinary press conference here at their training camp south of St Etienne, three members of the Iranian team claim the US-made film, about a Californian girl taken to live in Tehran by her husband, was designed to undermine the team's morale just four days before their politically charged match against the Americans in Group F.

"We are sure this film has been shown on purpose. It is a lie and an insult to Iranian culture," Khodadad Azizi, a member of the Iranian squad, said. "The French people should be friendly to all teams equally. This film has been shown to bring tension to our team and we are very upset."

Based on a best-selling novel *Not Without My Daughter* by Californian Betty Mahmoody it is the story of an American girl taken to live in Tehran, where she is kept like a slave and made to conform to Islamic custom. It was shown on channel M6 opposite live coverage of Germany v USA.

The Iranian delegation have made a formal complaint to FIFA about the timing of the screening and the content of the film. "We know there are films like *Schindler's List*, which shows what Germans did to the Jews, and about what the US have done in Vietnam, but none of these have been shown on French TV over the past few days," said Azizi, who says he will refuse to wear his Fair Play cap for the remainder of the tournament. "We don't know who is behind this and we don't care whether this is a private station. This is an insult not just to our regime but to our whole people."

## THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

THE POST-match spin-doctoring was world-class. If the US soccer team played with the precision and purpose that its post-match verbal assessments possessed then America might be soccer-mad by this morning under its boots. Instead, the US side, looking as stunned as a pack of deer on the Jersey Turnpike at rush hour and as star-struck as 11 teenagers at a Spice Girls show, was dominated by Germany in a 2-0 loss at the Parc des Princes. In American football terms, the World Cup Group F opener loss had the tone of a 24-0 NFL Sunday rout despite the hard-to-believe encouraging feelings the US came away with after a moderate second-half flurry staved off a 4-0 or 5-0 result. In defense of the US national team, it was facing the reigning European champions, legitimate World Cup favourites and its toughest first-round opponent in the Germans.

But the confident Americans, led by coach Steve Sampson, led us to believe that they belonged in the same category as the Germans, Brazils, Italys and Argentinas. By virtue of Germany's dominance - expected by everyone in the world except the Americans - US soccer is exactly where it was before the match: Neophytes in the world's sport with little respect from the powers. "New York Post".

"DESPITE JAMAICA'S 3-1 loss to Croatia in their World Cup encounter, scores of die-hard soccer fans shrugged off the disappointment with drinks at a popular night spot along Rae Street in Rae Town, eastern Kingston, near the city's coastline. But among those who took part in the community viewing of the match were some who were so upset that they didn't bother to stay behind to enjoy a party which had been planned to go ahead whether it was win, lose

or draw for the Reggae Boyz. People went to Rae Town from all corners yesterday, decked out in the colours of the national flag. The pre-match period was like a soccer festival as the Jamaicans drank and conversed, predicting the result of the match. Most speculated that Jamaica would win; others danced in the streets in high spirits. When Croatia scored first, some stopped viewing the television sets. But it was back to business on the stroke of half-time, when Robbie Earle headed home for the Reggae Boyz. Fans kept punching the air with clenched fists. Some knocked pot covers together. Police later reported a shooting incident nearby, involving the police and gunmen. Elsewhere in Kingston many streets were deserted, but one vendor said her stock of Reggae Boyz T-shirts were selling like "hot bread". "The Gleaner", Kingston.

Compiled by Rupert Metcalf

## Maldini faces big choice

THE ITALIANS prepare to face Cameroon in their second World Cup match in Montpellier tonight claiming they know little about their opponents - and even less about their own starting line-up.

Even the day before the Group B match, Cesare Maldini's game plan was still shrouded in mystery. The Italian coach has a dilemma on his hands - should he stick with the partnership of Roberto Baggio and Christian Vieri which scored Italy's goals against the Chileans, or should he cater for Alessandro Del Piero, recently returned from a groin injury?

Baggio and Vieri worked well together in Bordeaux, but the temptation to gamble on Del Piero is considerable. "I don't know what the coach will decide or who will play against Cameroon," said Vieri, who will play the role of target man between Del Piero and Baggio if the coach opts for a three-man attack. "We've practised with three strikers in training over the past few days and I think it's worked okay. But a match is different from training."

The Africans still remain something of an unknown quantity to the Italians. "I know they've got some good players and some strong defenders, although I don't know them by name," Vieri said. "One of them plays in yellow boots, one of them plays in red boots. I only know them by the colour of their boots."

Chile's Marcelo Salas, who scored twice in a 2-2 draw against Italy last week, was unable to train at the weekend with a groin strain, but will be fit to face Austria in today's other Group B game in St Etienne.

Chile's coach, Nelson Acosta, said: "Salas will be playing against Austria, and I hope he'll again turn it on the way he did against Italy."

Robbie Earle of Jamaica has criticised a television documentary about the World Cup debutants for almost ruining their debut in the tournament.

The Reggae Boyz lost 3-1 in their opening game on Sunday against Croatia, with Wimbledon's Earle heading Jamaica's first goal in the finals. However, he has claimed their moment of history was soured

by a documentary screened by Channel 4 in Britain on the night prior to the game.

Earle said a "bombshell" and an "air of discontentment" fell on the squad as they tuned into the programme. "Rather than focusing on the harmony among the cosmopolitan group that have defied the odds to make history, it chose to depict great contrasts between the English and Jamaican-based players in terms of wealth and lifestyle," he said. "They had driven a wedge in the camp, painting negative rather than positive images."

It has left a bad taste in my mouth - a sense shared by the rest of my team-mates," Earle continued. "On the morning of the biggest game in our footballing lives, disharmony in the camp was rife."

## IN FRANCE WITHOUT A TICKET

Nicholas Harling's daily quest to get into a World Cup match: Day Seven

THERE ARE few things worse in life than getting locked out of football matches. The sound of the roar of the crowd inside was too much in Bordeaux yesterday for one passionate Scot wearing the cross of St Andrew painted on his face. Egged on by his pals who were waiting to follow him, he managed to climb in 26 minutes into the game. Defiant to the last, he yelled "No poll tax" as he was led away after being apprehended by stewards. Hundreds of his compatriots, unable to afford the inflated 1,000 and 1,500 franc prices being demanded by touts, had made for the big screen on the river banks. Me? I watched the second half from a bar sufficiently far from the Stade Lesieur not to be too densely populated by frustrated heavy-drinking Scots and Norwegians. I must make sure this does not become a habit.



30/WORLD CUP

# US ready to adopt aggressive approach

THE UNITED States are ready to adopt a more aggressive approach in their next Group F match against Iran next Sunday.

The American goalkeeper, Casey Keller, put down the 2-0 defeat to the three-time world champions Germany in Paris on Monday night partly to worries that a physical approach may have led to a rash of red cards.

The Leicester City goalkeeper said: "I think we were too nervous coming into the tournament about red cards being handed out for all tackles from behind. We are not as good as Germany so we needed to match them physically, and we did not in the first half. Maybe we gave them too much respect. Now we know how the refereeing is going we will be tougher against Iran."

The US coach, Steve Sampson, is keen to move on to the match against Iran, beaten 1-0 by Yugoslavia in their opener, after fulfilling his first World Cup objective. "We wanted to earn respect from Germany and I think we did that," he said. "You saw the capability of this team in the second half and we showed that we have closed the gap between us and the Germans significantly."

Germany's coach, Berti Vogts, said that the United States team had shown marked improvement from the 1994 finals. "It is clear tactically that they have learned a tremendous amount - there are no poor cousins about in international football any more," he said. "There are a number of American players in the German Bundesliga and they knew a lot about our team."

Germany's crucial second goal against the States was scored by Jurgen Klinsmann, the veteran Tottenham Hotspur striker whose place in France had been in doubt due to both fitness and form.

Klinsmann, who has played in four of the top European leagues, made an emphatic statement about his ability by scoring one goal and setting up another on Monday. The 33-year-old, who has a 1990 World Cup medal, sent an emphatic message to the doubters that he is fit and sharp and had every right to parade his skills at the Parc des Princes and not be consigned to the football scrapheap.

Keller, who was left rooted to the spot by Klinsmann's superb 64th-minute strike, is one of those who believes the German may be planning to go out with a World Cup fanfare. He said: "He has played in the top leagues in the world and could go back to Germany or Italy. And there is always the United States, but would he want to finish his career there?"

"Germany are capable of winning this tournament," the Leicester goalkeeper added. "Maybe that's what is on his mind, to go out at the top in this tournament."

Jürgen is not what he was several years ago - but what player is at 33? But he showed against us that he has still got what it takes. That [goal] was a tremendous finish - that is the sort of player he is. It was a classic finish."

Klinsmann's 45th goal for his country in 104 appearances was spectacular. He expertly controlled a cross from Oliver Bierhoff on his chest, a move that took him past the defender Thomas Dooley, and then found the net with a right-foot drive.

Klinsmann had already set up Germany's opening goal, heading on an Olaf Thon corner for Andy Möller to score, and the captain was satisfied with his personal performance. "I feel in good shape, aggressive. I have worked a lot for that and I proved I am back in shape," Klinsmann said. He added that his ap-

petite for the game still is not sated, despite winning World Cup and European Championship medals with Germany and successful stints with Internazionale, Monaco, Bayern Munich and Spurs, whom he is still contracted to until the end of June. Klinsmann was German footballer of the Year in 1988 and 1994 and England's footballer of the Year in 1995 and fulfilled a dream by

helping Bayern to the German title in 1997. A second World Cup success on 12 July would surely crown a great career.

"Jürgen is a player of great experience," Vogts said. "I always knew he could still do a lot for the team. And he showed that against the Americans."

The German coach was not satisfied with the way his team let the

unlustrous Americans take the initiative for periods of the game. His players will, he said, need to study the video of the match and the work on improving their approach play in midfield at their Nice training camp as they prepare for what is expected to be the toughest group match, against Yugoslavia on Sunday.

Vogts said: "I was satisfied with the victory, but not totally satisfied

with the way we played. After we scored that first goal we should have stayed organised and calmed down. We are on the way to being a good team. But we Germans must dominate matches. We can't just run behind like you do at a dance when you are not quite up with the beat."

"It annoyed me that we let them back into it after our good start," the coach added. "We now have to take

on really strong opponents. We can't give them so much space."

The German defender Christian Wörns added: "This win has given us confidence but we still need to improve technically, especially in the field. If we can win on Sunday, then the qualification for the next round could be in the bag. But we have to be careful because the Yugoslavs are excellent technically."



Frankie Hejduk, the United States wing-back, hurdles a German tackle during his side's 2-0 defeat in Paris on Monday

Allsport

## Football the new god on the Côte d'Azur

I WAS on the run - from riot police with batons and gangs armed to the teeth with iron bars and knives and, most fearsome of all, the dread chant of "Vindaloo, vindaloo". I had to get out of Marseille in a hurry. And what better place to lie low than St Tropez, one of the jewels in the crown of the glittering Côte d'Azur.

Scott Fitzgerald first sold us the image of the Riviera as the pinnacle of lotus-eating decadence. But another American, Paul Theroux, summed it up rather pithily on his bad-tempered tour around the Mediterranean as "100 miles of Frenchness - food, wine, style, beat, rich old farts, gamblers and bare-breasted bimbos". Somehow I ended up watching television. Admittedly with no less than five blondes. Only three of them were American college-girls supposedly studying French, the others were a couple of German guys. We were all in a café on the Place des Lices called Le Sporting, which was decked out with flags and footballing icons and a large television which was showing the USA versus Germany game.

Though it will not sell any papers, I have to report that a spirit of camaraderie reigned throughout and there was absolutely no fighting, before or after the game. On the other hand, the pétanquistes in the square - in a game that was still going on at 1 am - did get a little rowdy. And I did

manage to get into an argument after I moved on to the Piano Bar with a particularly surly waiter, who - after half an hour or so - brought me an espresso.

"This is an espresso," I pointed out.

"Oui, Monsieur," he said.

"I could have sworn I ordered a café au lait," I said.

"Monsieur, it is after midnight."

"Well, what's that got to do with anything?"

"Look - I have nothing but small cups. A café au lait, that needs a big cup."

"Couldn't you have made me a small café au lait?"

"Consider yourself lucky I even make you coffee, this is a bar, you should be buying alcohol."

In Marseille they were trying to stop foreigners drinking, in St Tropez they were encouraging us. This wasn't the only difference, though. The epic Marseille stadium is in a poor part of town, bordered in the distance by craggy hills, but

surrounded by the tower blocks of the cité. The port at St Tropez was stuffed with millionaires' yachts. But, in a revelation that might well sell a few papers, particularly in Italy, or might have done had I taken a picture to prove it, I am almost certain I saw Roberto Baggio on board one of these palatial vessels, called something like "Amnesia" or "Timeless", flirting simultaneously with at least three women. This is not quite on a par with the Portuguese nightclub story - it was only 11.30 pm - but still I was shocked to see the Italian player swanning about in deck shoes.

I shouldn't have been though. After all, it was football that first brought me here. Most people think of England's 1966 World Cup triumph as some kind of replay of the Second World War; I saw it as a premonition of pleasures to come. If England could defeat West Germany, I reasoned, it was logical that Brigitte Bardot (No 1 sex goddess of the

time and more interested than in two-legged than four-legged characters), despite having married "Count" Günther von Sachs at exactly the same time, should succumb to an Englishman. Thus the North Circular Road led directly from Wembley to St Tropez. I was proved almost right when she had a fling with Mike Samuels in Chiswick, not far from the fly-over. Let this be a warning to any innocent youths tempted to swarm over to Rio in the event of an England victory over Brazil this year.

But things have changed in France. In the 60s, everyone fantasised about Eden-by-the-sea: the students of the *Evenements* in Paris saw the revolution in microcosm when they started picking up bits of the road to throw at policemen, and noticed with amazement "Beneath the paving stones, the beach!" Now we dream of a post-lapsarian green field with posts in the middle of the city. Or, as the barman at Le Sporting put it, as pitifully as Paul Theroux, when I was asking him whatever became of BB? "No one is interested in sex any more, now there is only football, football, and football." Philip Larkin said that sexual intercourse was invented in 1962, some time between the Lady Chatterley trial and the first Beatles album. It went out of fashion again in 1998, though, some time between Scotland-Brazil and France-South Africa.

ANDY MARTIN  
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



Italy versus Cameroon.  
(One thing is for sure this evening Italy will hit the bar.)



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### QUOTES OF THE DAY

"We always have a habit of coming back - I would love to think that sometime soon we'll get ahead in a game and then go on from strength to strength. We're still here and we'll be fighting to the end" Craig Brown, Scotland coach, after 1-1 draw with Norway

"We're still in with a chance but I'm really disappointed with the way we lost control of the game. We had complete control until we lost the goal" Egil Olsen, Norway coach

"We will certainly be playing to win against England - even though I think they would be happy with a draw" Dan Petrescu, Romania full-back, looking ahead to his side's meeting with England on Monday

"I've now seen all four [teams in the group] playing and the best are England. They have very good players" Colombia's coach, Hernan Dario Gomez

"We need to find a better rhythm" German coach Berti Vogts, unhappy despite 2-0 win over United States

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# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## She's had enough, and she's not going to fake it any more

The fixed smile of the cheerleader has cracked. In a suburb of Washington, girls have cast down their pompons and are refusing to cheer on (or 'entertain') their high-school sports stars. From the sidelines, America looks on aghast

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

**N**o, absolutely not. They are in class; they're preparing for exams, and I'm not getting them out of class." This was the adamant response from Kenneth Culbert, headmaster of Loudoun Valley High School, to my tentative request to talk to a few of his senior pupils.

In other circumstances, perhaps, the headmaster might have been more tractable. But he had just found his school at the centre of a local media storm that touched on the subject of the moment in the United States: the often tense and ever-evolving relations between the sexes. And although there was not the slightest suggestion of impropriety in this case, and the scandal – such as it was – was all attitude and no action, you could understand his point of view.

Local baseball enthusiasts, it had been reported, were encountering unprecedented and quite unexpected difficulties in recruiting just a few dozen girls to be "hostesses" for a major national event to be held in their county this summer. Worse than the recruitment problem itself, though, was the charge levelled by a number of Loudoun Valley High girls that the very notion of "hostesses" for the event – the finals of the youth baseball tournament, the Babe Ruth "World Series" – was outdated and sexist. The teams, you see, are all male, and the hostesses, obviously, are to be female.

One of the "refuseniks", 16-year-old Brooke Hoeltzel, said: "You can't consider me a feminist, but when they told me about that, I said: Nope." She said she played basketball and tennis herself, and insisted many of her athlete friends shared her view: "They don't want to be cheerleaders." Jennifer Potts, a 17-year-old from the same school, said she was not volunteering because: "The way the hostesses are portrayed is a wimpy, girly image."

In the safe suburban world of Loudoun County, with its manicured lawns, two-parent families and Saturday sports, their words had the ring of rebellion. Were the girls finally questioning the seemingly indestructible order of junior sports, according to which the boys play and a select band of girls – chosen for their conventional American "cuteness" – chant, cheer and cavort along the sidelines?

Loudoun County in northern Virginia, a bare half hour by car to the west of Washington DC, is typical of the overwhelmingly white country-turned-suburbs that ring so many big American cities, providing good schools, spacious houses and a sanitised haven from urban evils for those who can afford it. The very model of comfortable, conformist, complacent suburbia, this is one of those places where you may not mow the lawn on a Sunday morning without attracting censure, where too frequent an absence from church will be remarked upon, and where hospitality is returned promptly and with point-for-point exactitude.

It is also a world where women are seen overwhelmingly as wives and mothers, even if they work full-time; where there is real social pressure (still) for every woman to be as elaborately clad and coiffed as her neighbour and entertain in the manner of hospitality guru Martha Stewart, and where girls are protected and prettified into womanhood.

But these small towns turned suburbs also breed contradictions. Loudoun County used to be lush farmland and prosperous horse-country; now, its population is one of the fastest-growing of any county in the whole of the United States. Green

fields and clapboard farm-buildings are vanishing by the week, replaced by the new "executive" estates, high-tech business parks and shopping malls that all prosper in the aura of Washington's Dulles airport. The county town of Purcellville, which will host the junior "World Series" tournament that has so suddenly sprung to notice, has a gracious heart of white, 19th century mansions in the southern style familiar from *Gone With the Wind*, but also concrete shopping malls and multiplying circles of pastel terraced townhouses.

For suburban girls who have the city nearby, computers on their desks, perhaps their own car in the multi-car garage, and the liberal *Washington Post* or *New York Times* on their breakfast tables, these are confusing times. There is pressure to behave like cheerleaders – pretty little consorts, modest and flirtatious by turns. But there is pressure, also, to toughen themselves for college in pursuit of that other model of today's all-American girl: the budding city career woman, who strides out with confidence to worst the men in the world of work.

Hard though this may be to credit in the land where modern feminism began, these contradictions are still new and unfamiliar in America's sheltered suburbs. One working mother penned an opinion article for a US newspaper, lamenting the likely break-up of the Spice Girls, because in her view this British group had provided a welcome model of female assertiveness and self-reliance – "girl power" – for her sub-teenage daughter. The dearth of such models in Barbie-doll America is why the reluctance of Loudoun Valley High School girls to be hostesses made news.

Soon afterwards, though, Loudoun County's defensive barriers were firmly in place. Well yes, there had been some initial difficulty in recruiting hostesses, said Jaime Brown, who is responsible for finding and training 33 girls before the tournament starts in mid-August. But that may have been because the organisers did not know how best to go about it. Advertisements in local newspapers, she said, had been confusing because they made it sound as though the hostesses were to be like host families. Once they presented the openings at local schools, and explained the hostesses' duties, she said, interest had picked up. Now there were almost enough.

Eric Zimmerman, a local lawyer who is also a leading light of the organising committee, was also carefully upbeat. But while insisting that the whole affair had been overblown, he ventured that it

might have been better to call the girls "goodwill ambassadors", rather than hostesses. "Obviously, we're not running a dating service," he said. The girls' duties are to make the visiting teams feel welcome (three will be allotted to each visiting team), attend all "their" team's matches, and encourage them. Would they be cheerleaders? "We're all cheerleaders," he said quickly – clearly mindful of the objections voiced by some of the girls. "But if you're talking about short skirts and pompons – no, that's not what's going on."

Both Ms Brown and Mr Zimmerman suggested at least some of the recruiting problems may have stemmed from the fact that there were so many other things for girls to do in the Washington region besides hosting.

Girls' sports, for instance, are proliferating in the wake of legislation that requires schools and colleges to spend as much on them as on boys'. So girls do not have to be cheerleaders to participate in sport. The job market this summer, with unemployment running at less than 4 per cent nationwide and a shortage of workers in the burgeoning suburbs, may also be part of the explanation. Girls of good education, with mothers prepared to ferry them around or with their own driving licences and cars, will have no difficulty earning a good deal more than pocket money through the summer.

Hostessing for the Babe Ruth League junior baseball may be an honour, but it won't help pay college fees or dress bills. For the girls who have volunteered to help out, it is the excitement and sense of involvement that are the draw. Amanda Emich, whose father is active in local baseball and who lives in Leesburg, said she saw the hostessing as a good opportunity to meet new people – "after all, there's not that much else to do" – and a "once in a lifetime thing" to be involved in a national event on this scale. She thought it was "silly" to call hostessing sexist: "After all, it would be kind of funny to have guys hosting other guys."

Emich has a point. The Babe Ruth "World Series" is a national event, bringing teams from across the US for two weeks of matches, fairs and socialising. Loudoun County has raised

\$250,000 of private money to refurbish its baseball stadium, and the whole organising effort, from start to finish, has been the responsibility of volunteers in the best tradition of America. The Babe Ruth League has only 12 staff workers on its books.

Yet the fact that this year, for the first time in 20 years, it was hard to find girls to be hostesses, surely says something, too. Not only about Loudoun County, but about changing America. Before the defensive wall went up, Eric Zimmerman let slip that one reason for the difficulty in recruitment might be the greater number of professional women in the Washington area who provided alternative role models for girls. Washington, he mused, was perhaps different from the other places – all further south – where the tournament had been held before.

His cynicism about a phenomenon as all-American as cheerleading also signalled a change. It was only five years ago that the small town of Hempstead in Texas made national news after four of its high school cheerleaders revealed they were pregnant – by members of the football team. The ensuing outcry dwelt not on the nature of the boy-girl relationship fostered by the all-male sports culture in schools, but on whether the girl who had an abortion should have been allowed back on the team. Now, the discussion would probably range more widely.

There have been other incipient stirrings of "girl power" from America's mostly co-educational high schools, too. This is the season of the high school prom – the school-leaving dances that are such a rite of passage for American teenagers, especially girls. The girls are still dressing up in satin and frills as though they were going to a Viennese opera ball, rather than the school gym, still comparing notes on who did their nails and their hair and their make-up. But they are also teaming up to go in girl-only groups, if no boys have plucked up the courage to invite them, and for a girl to ask a boy is no longer (quite) the leap of courage that it would have been a decade ago. The girls' forwardness was still sufficiently novel, though, to make the headlines of Washington-area newspapers last month.

The prom invitations, the Spice Girls, the decline of the cheerleader as the acme of American girlhood and the reluctant hostesses of Loudoun County may be no more than straws in the wind. But there is a wind. It is starting to ruffle the cosy conservatism of suburban America, and could eventually blow away the lingering ideal of the Fifties-era family that has made growing up so hard for American girls of the Nineties.

George Stilleman/Katz

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## 2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

## It's a novel way to die

TODAY I am bringing you a complete novel – yes, a complete novel, ready for turning into a film and everything, yet short enough to read between Tube stations!

But it is also an interactive novel, which means YOU are involved as well. That's right! You, the reader, are the main character in this novel, because at various points in the story YOU will have to choose the vital correct option which plugs in to the next bit of the plot!

Understand? No? Well, you will once we start this gripping new thriller called "The Junk Fax Murders"

Your name is Stella Tallis. Recently fired as editor of a national newspaper, you are taking a little time off at home, waiting for the phone to ring and another national



**MILES KINGTON**  
It's time to imagine you're a newspaper editor and someone wants to kill you

newspaper to offer you the position at its helm. ("At the helm" is the sort of expression which you, as an experienced newspaperwoman, like to use to mean "in charge of" something, even though the man in charge of a ship is the captain, who seldom deigns to take the helm. It is this sort of stylish inaccuracy which has lifted you, Stella Tallis, to the top of the newspaper tree.)

On your first morning at home, where you have a computer terminal, fax machine, etc in your workroom, you are sitting down pretending to start work, when you hear a noise downstairs. You go to investigate. There is a man in the garden without ringing the bell. You are just about to give him the bum's rush when you realise he looks vaguely familiar.

Who is he?  
a) Jeremy Beadle.  
b) One of Murdoch's top lieutenants come to offer you a job at the helm of one of Murdoch's top newspapers.  
c) The accountant from the paper you've just left, come to query a few missing hundred thousand pounds.  
d) Your husband.  
Of course! You recognise him now! It's your husband!

You've been so busy editing this daily paper for two years that you have hardly been home, and had forgotten you had a husband and children. Or do you have children?

You decide to check up, cunningly and casually. "Jonathan!" you say. "Isn't it lovely! I've got a few days at home! I can spend all that quality time with you and ... with you and ..."

"And do the housework for a change while I watch the World Cup," says your husband, rather coolly. He vanishes into the sitting-room while you retire to your workroom. And there you discover something which is going to change your life forever – a single sheet of paper which has just chattered from the fax machine.

What is this message?  
a) A simple appeal from your old paper: "Come back – all is forgiven!"

b) A simple, anonymous farewell from the staff of your old paper: "Good riddance, you fat, talentless gorgon!"

c) A junk fax offering you a simple way of making a fortune without going to prison.

d) A death threat saying: "You will be dead by midday."

Yes, your first day back at home brings you a death threat. This is fairly unsettling, so you sit down with a strong cup of coffee to think of anyone in Fleet Street who might wish you dead. After a quarter of an hour, you can't think of anyone who might NOT wish to take revenge on you, so ruthlessly have you behaved towards everyone.

You decide to go for a walk at a time when you would normally be at an editorial meeting deciding whether to lead with the baby-sitter murder story ("Four-year-old watches 'Simpsons' cartoon, then murders baby-sitter"), or the doctor horror story ("Doctor Struck Off After Refusing To Have Sex With Patient"), and you pop your head into the sitting-room to tell your husband you're going for a walk. He is sitting on the sofa with a small boy. Is it your son? Could be. They both nod without looking round.

So you stroll down to the local park and while you are foolishly taking a short cut through some hedges, you feel an arm come round your throat and a knife prod into your back. A voice says: "Did you get my fax? Then you'll know what happens at midday. Let's look at the time. My goodness, it IS midday ...!"

You manage to twist round and have a look at your assailant. Oh, my God! This is serious! It's the last man on earth you ever wanted to see again! It's ...!

I'm sorry. We seem to have run out of space. You're on your own now. I hope you manage to survive. Good luck!



Our series on the Royal College of Art continues with a peek at some final-year fashion students preparing for their degree show tomorrow

David Rose

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## Football thugs

Sir: Suzanne Moore ("Forever Ingerland", 16 June) is quite right to question the reaction in the UK to the World Cup violence in France, which combines a politically-correct declaration of public shame and a belief that this is nothing to do with football. Certainly it has everything to do with football – but at the same time, it has to do with present-day Britain and British attitudes.

The thugs who ruined Sunday evening in Marseilles are the tip of a vast iceberg of prejudice, which ranges from a vague distrust of foreigners (still far too common) to the xenophobic drive regularly found in the tabloid newspapers.

The British are generally more racially hesitant, and often more blatantly prejudiced, than their neighbours in Europe. Idiomatic attitudes to foreigners and particularly towards the French are not confined to drunken yobs who use a football match against Tunisians as an excuse for a punch-up, from Margaret Thatcher downwards (or upwards?), public figures who should know better continue to make statements or display attitudes which would be unacceptable in other European countries.

Of course there are hooligans in other countries. Of course the British are not alone in having problems with coming to terms with how they relate to other nationalities; but the problem of football hooliganism started in Britain, and it is up to the British to resolve it.

This they will only do by banishing the attitudes, throughout society, which lead in their most extreme forms to beer-soaked morons looking for a fight with whoever is perceived as being "not one of us". These people are telling the rest of the world very clearly what Britain is actually like.

MICHAEL J GREEN  
St Vincent des Bois  
France

Sir: Suzanne Moore's assumption, repeated in your leading article, that if there is no football there will be no violence, and that if the England team fly home the hooligans will meekly follow them is risible.

The causes of this week's violence range from the simple (too much drink, tabloid-inspired xenophobia) to the more complex (educational and parental factors, alienation from the sort of bourgeois privilege your columnists enjoy) but what is quite clear is that while football may attract violence it does not cause it.

The vast majority of men who play, organise, and follow professional football in England are reasonable people who deplore violence and we deserve better than to be told that we are in some way responsible for it and the team we support should come home or be merged into a Great Britain team that will magically turn our worst things into Barbour-wearing decent chaps like their rugby counterparts.

KEVIN DAY  
LONDON SW16

Sir: I support your proposal that England should withdraw from the World Cup (leading article, 16 June).

If we act now, while we are doing well in the competition, we might just be able to salvage some honour from a thoroughly disgraceful situation.

It might also be possible to convince those "decent" English supporters who continue to tolerate the existence of hooligans within their number that the problem really does concern them and that they need to do more than wring their hands and excuse themselves. How many thugs, I wonder, have been handed over to the police by these "decent" supporters?

KEITH WILLIAMSON  
Orpington, Kent

Sir: Again English supporters have brought shame on the nation. But should we be surprised at this behaviour when they have role models such as Gascoigne and Sheringham who set themselves up as heroes and then act with the utter irresponsibility of recent weeks? And the French policy of inviting everyone to come and enjoy the World Cup atmosphere must now be seen as complete madness. When the supporters attend the match they can be controlled and have not had as much time to drink, but when they have no match to attend they spend all day in the pubs and bars and at the end are let loose on the city centre with results that we see in Marseilles.

ANDREW RUSHMER  
Liss Forest, Hampshire

Sir: Your leading article suggests a merger of the four home nations into a Great Britain football side. It is not a prospect that would gladden the hearts of the other three nations.

In the same week that the English supporters celebrated their win by vandalising their host city, Scotland's supporters had followed their team's defeat by playing football in the parks of Paris with Brazilian supporters.

Their team had lost, but the supporters thrilled to be at this marvellous celebration of football, and to raise the standard of their own small nation off the pitch with equal pride and great grace and humour. By all means suggest that England pulls out of this tournament, but leave the other nations of these isles to rejoice in their own good-natured nationalism.

CLARE DONNELLY  
Claygate, Surrey

Sir: The French police in Marseilles should have no problem about what to do with British fans who have become British drunks. They have the original "lock 'em up and throw away the key" prison on their doorstep – the Chateau d'If. I doubt if the normal British patriot would mind at all if they used it.

PAMELA DONOHUE  
Sheffield

## Creeping superstate

Sir: Whilst I agree with Sir Donald Maitland ("No EU superstate", letter, 13 June) on the importance of the Kohl-Chirac letter, their words will not allay Eurosceptic suspicions.

Look at the development of the coal and steel pact into the EU of today. Almost certainly European leaders have no plan for a federal Europe. Who – or what committee –

could write a constitution for such a state, given the national histories and the complexities (including subsidiarity)? This is not 1776. Further, any attempt would involve, at some stage, popular endorsement.

Anyway, why try to draw a blueprint? Proceed pragmatically: let institutions evolve, modifying and compromising as the issues present themselves, like the unofficial group of finance ministers keeping an eye on the European Central Bank, or the Commission's intention to pass its slide rule over national budgets. Existing machinery will cope.

But not for much longer. The penetration of the Union's laws and regulations into every nation's affairs is already wide and deep and will grow as economies are tightened together. In a few years, to manage such an enterprise will require a full-time, accountable policy machine. The Council of Ministers, in its various guises, harnessed to already formed bureaucracies, will be transformed, gradually but ineluctably, into the government of the Union.

You could liken it to the human foetus just before birth: everything working except the lungs and the heart. Birth will bring the oxygen of direct political legitimacy, via Strasbourg and all the national assemblies, at last consulted on a deal already done; the pulse of democracy will beat and the democratic deficit, to which you, sir, often allude, will vanish. Its elderly parents will afterwards bashfully admit that they had certainly not intended to have a child. Had they not said so, often enough? "But we are still so fond of one another – and it is such a beautiful baby. Takes after its German father, or French mother, or its Anglo-Italian aunt, or ...?"

EY WHITTLE  
South Luffenham, Rutland

## Medical witch-hunt

Sir: News reports of the General Medical Council hearing on the two surgeons at the Bristol Royal Infirmary have been one-sidedly incomplete and have given the impression that these were hamfisted, dishonest, uncaring surgeons who were both technically and clinically incompetent. That is not what the committee found. The charge of technical incompetence was withdrawn and that of operating beyond their clinical competence was found not proved. Even the prosecution accepted their integrity, commitment and industry.

The truth is that the surgeons' main offence was found to have been that they made the wrong decision to operate on three patients each. One must not underestimate the seriousness of this but the press seems to have overlooked the fact that these surgeons had operated on over 1,000 other children during this five-year period, with results generally in keeping with the national average.

I think every doctor has cause to tremble. None of us is perfect and all of us err occasionally. However, if one becomes the object of a witch-hunt, as the Bristol surgeons appear

to have become, there seems to be little chance that the general public will ever be given the full story.

ALAN KERR FRCS  
Belfast

Sir: Mr James Wisheart twice performed life-saving operations on our son. On both occasions we fully understood the severity of the procedure, the reluctance with which the intervention was undertaken, the at best 50 per cent chance of survival, and the otherwise certainty of terminal heart failure.

We remain impressed by the skill, dedication and attention shown by the entire team at Bristol. We are ever grateful.  
JOHN S McLORINAN  
GILLIAN E McLORINAN  
Weston Super Mare, Somerset

## Blame for Kosovo

Sir: In urging the West to stay out of Kosovo, Sid Green (letter, 16 June) distorts history. The civil war and break-up of Yugoslavia started well before the decision to recognise Croatia: has Mr Green forgotten the bombardment of Dubrovnik and destruction of Vukovar by the Serbs in the autumn of 1991? And it will not do to make Helmut Kohl and John Major the scapegoats: the root cause was Slobodan Milosevic's exploitation of the forces of Serbian nationalism in an attempt to dominate Yugoslavia – compounded by an insensitive response on the Croat side towards the Serbs of Croatia.

As for Kosovo, Milosevic's move in the late 1980s to deprive Kosovo of its existing autonomy was a major step in the wrong direction: it was a factor in the break-up of Yugoslavia, as well as fomenting the present crisis in Kosovo itself.

MICHAEL LAIRD  
Havant, Hampshire

## Policing the police

Sir: It is a very long time since chief constables regarded themselves as "untouchables" ("Ministers" concern over police chiefs", 15 June).

Like all chief constables I am inspected once a year by HM Inspectors of Constabulary and by the Audit Commission or district auditors. I work to, and report performance on, a policing plan finalised by my police authority and I operate under a media and public spotlight. The criminal and civil laws apply to chief constables and there is no reluctance by the whole range of people we deal with to invoke them.

As for the quality of incumbents, that is more difficult for me to comment on. But in the course of preparing for or doing my job I have attended the Royal College of Defence Studies with senior military officers, management courses with the most senior local and central government officers and degree programmes with people from industry and commerce. I have not felt that my fellow chief constables suffer by comparison.

You name some chief constables whose forces have officers under "investigation". All chief constables are in that position; it is the nature of

the business we are in, and a real sign that nobody is "untouchable".  
DAVID BLAKEY  
President  
Association of Chief Police Officers  
Worcester

Sir: As a serving police officer I was interested by your article "Blacks are targeted for police searches" (8 June). You state that "only one tenth of searches lead to an arrest – which implies that the vast majority are unnecessary." That conclusion is erroneous. One of the aims of the stop search procedure is to render arrests unnecessary by allowing the officer to decide if there is an offence being committed without having to arrest the person concerned.

Equally, it is not always necessary for a person to be arrested for an offence, even if the power to do so exists, for a case to be brought against them.  
A JONES  
Nuneaton, Warwickshire

## IN BRIEF

Sir: Ian Hargreaves (Comment, 15 June) wonders what label Tony Blair will use for re-selling new Labour at the next election. Wouldn't "Second-Hand Tories" be the obvious one.  
DAVID BISHOP  
Nottingham

Sir: The term New Labour now conjures up the image of a tiresome commercial, touting with endless tedium an untried, second-rate brand of soap powder. Why not Hard Labour for a change?  
ALAN J PAGE  
Stourmarket, Suffolk

Sir: Twice in your obituary for Reg Smythe (16 June) you refer to him being born in Hartlepool, Yorkshire. It may come as a surprise to you in the South, but Hartlepool is north of the river Tees and is thus in County Durham, traditionally, and now in Cleveland. There is geography north of London!  
RICHARD WEBB  
Northwich, Cheshire

Sir: On Stanley Daniels' premise that "the polluter pays" (letter, 11 June), why not a very large levy on dog food?  
CHRISTINE SMITH  
Seaford, Sussex

Sir: John Mann asks (letter, 15 June) if walking 32 miles at the age of 66 is the optimum way of achieving a century. I am sadly less ambitious. I would merely hope to walk one mile at the age of 99.  
GERAINT JENNINGS  
St Helier, Jersey

## Correction

In Suzanne Moore's article "Forever Ingerland" (16 June) it was suggested that Nick Hancock encouraged viewers of *Fantasy World Cup Live* to headbutt TV detectors if they called during the World Cup. This is incorrect. It was the co-presenter Frank Skinner who made the comment.

## THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

## MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

## TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

## WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

## THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

## FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

THE INDEPENDENT  
Bigger and better



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Beckett vs Brown – a personal battle for the soul of new Labour

**HOW REASSURING.** After a year-long honeymoon, with scarcely a policy dispute to speak of, we can now say a cheery hello to that most familiar of political animals, the Cabinet row. Like most such rows, the details of the dispute – over the structure of the minimum wage – are less significant than the conflict between the personnel involved. When the Low Pay Commission reported last month, there was little dispute within the government over its basic recommendation of a minimum wage of £3.60 an hour. The trade unions, of course, were far from happy. Yesterday, for instance, UNISON repeated its demand for a level "significantly higher" than £4.00. But with no one in the government prepared to argue that case, £3.60 is what it remains. But as is so often the case with apparently straightforward concepts, the devil is in the detail. Alongside its general recommendation, the commission suggested a lower rate of £3.20 for workers under 21. Crucially, this would have cut into the Chancellor's New Deal plans, and so he has suggested that the lower rate be extended to 24 year olds.

This battle would, even on its own, be a symbolic fight over the soul of new Labour. Arguments over the purity of the minimum wage are code for the real division within the party, between those who feel a loyalty towards the party's trade union past and those who travel with less baggage. But the row has deepened and become entwined with a quite separate dispute, and it is this mix that gives it such potency. Margaret Beckett is regarded by both the Blairites and the Chancellor as having been a failure at the DTI and, although safe from dismissal, is a likely candidate for reshuffling. She has chosen to fight for her survival on two fronts, both of which put her into conflict with Gordon Brown: first, by arguing against his plans to extend the £3.20 level to 24 year olds; and secondly, by bidding for a £3bn increase in the DTI budget.

Under the new public spending control mechanism announced by the Chancellor last week, the settlements reached this summer are even more important than in the past, since they will last for three years. Mr Brown has announced that, with the exception of spending priorities such as education and health, he is – at best – expecting departmental budgets to stand still. So Mrs Beckett's bid is, in Whitehall-speak, "courageous". The Chancellor is thought to have responded by suggesting that she begins by trimming some £300m from the department's administrative costs. It is well known that



there is no love lost between the Chancellor and the President of the Board of Trade, and the budget negotiations are about far more than money. Mrs Beckett has chosen to take a stand against Mr Brown and has decided upon the public spending round and the minimum wage as her vehicles.

Her tactics are dangerous. Mrs Beckett has gained a reputation for refusing to compromise and follow the traditional Whitehall path of ceding ground from an initially high bid in order to reach a settlement. The unkind view of her tactics is that she is then able to wash her hands of the result and deny any responsibility when, as usually happens, she is defeated. The charitable gloss is that she takes a series of principled stands. The bud-

get dispute is relatively straightforward, and covers traditional ground. But the dispute over the minimum wage goes to the heart of the government's philosophy. Mrs Beckett originally suggested John Prescott as a mediator but Mr Prescott has developed a close relationship with the Chancellor in recent months and has been reluctant to intervene.

And so the Cabinet stands split. Somehow the dispute must be settled before tomorrow when Mrs Beckett must face an hour of Commons questions. It is possible that she is now regretting having chosen to fight a pitched battle with the Chancellor. For her own good, she would be best advised to negotiate a truce before she is defeated.

## No cause for celebration

AT LONG last the Louise Woodward story is over. We will never know the truth of what happened to Matthew Eappen. But most people will assume that the final result – manslaughter – is the most likely explanation. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the case, the most overwhelming emotion on her release is surely relief that this seemingly interminable saga has, finally, come to an end. From day one, there seemed something suspect about the prosecution's tactics – not least its insistence, in the face of seemingly contradictory evidence, that Ms Woodward was a murderess rather than a young woman who may have caused a tragic accident. No one, however, could have predicted just how great a hold on the public's attention the trial and subsequent appeal would exert. But then, we are a nation with a penchant for stories involving Brits apparently wrongfully convicted in foreign courts. When the defendant is a sweetly smiling young nanny, looking unable to hurt a fly, the public reaction was, with hindsight, bound to be great. But whatever we might think about Louise Woodward's guilt or innocence, and however relieved many people will be that she is on her way home, we should never forget that a tiny child died. Ms Woodward remains, in the words of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, a "convicted felon". Manslaughter may be a lesser charge than murder, but it is still a conviction for causing the unlawful death of another. The whooping cheers of joy in her home town when her conviction was originally quashed turned many stomachs. Relief is one thing, exultation is quite another. Louise Woodward will have to begin the rest of her life today. If she – and her parents – have any sense, they will damp down the more over-the-top celebrations that mark her return.

## A hypocritical line

THE YIDDISH word chutzpah has a number of definitions, but a leading candidate for its ultimate exponent must now be Sir George Martin. Talking yesterday to the Association of Chief Police Officers' annual conference on drugs, Sir George argued that no pop star with a drug habit should be given a record contract. Since it was Sir George's Beatles who made drugs such a central part of youth culture, one can only hold one's breath at his cheek. Perhaps he has started a trend and tomorrow Neil Hamilton will continue it by attacking sleaze in politics.

# The Prime Minister, patronage and Labour's flawed plans for the Lords

AS THE much delayed appearance of the tumbrels finally begins to concentrate the minds of our 631 hereditary peers, there has been a flurry of articles about what a vital safeguard they have been against the dictatorial instincts of successive governments. I find this rather hard to believe, given there was no Thatcherite excess so offensive that the House of Lords could be persuaded to defeat it.

I can think of only one really dramatic setback that the Lords imposed on a Tory government in my lifetime – when Mrs Thatcher wanted to abolish the GLC election of 1985, which we were planning to turn into a referendum on her abolition proposals.

Instead of extending the term of the elected administration until abolition, she wanted a committee of London boroughs, which would have meant a Tory majority, to take over the running of the council in its last year.

As Edward Heath pointed out in the House of Commons debate, this would have been the greatest gerrymander of modern times, and would have led to the outrageous situation of political control of the GLC passing from one party to another without an election. Following a substantial defeat in the Lords, Mrs Thatcher backed down and agreed to extend the life of the outgoing administration.

Flushed with this success, I and my colleagues at the GLC began to believe it might be possible actually to defeat the abolition bill when it was introduced into the Lords.

We set up a vast lobbying organisation which tracked down all known peers. Those who were anti-abolition

we provided with chauffeur-driven cars to the Lords, where we hired rooms and provided a constant supply of food, drink and beds to keep them happy. Following the votes we then sent them home.

The inadequacy of the House of Lords as vital constitutional safeguard was brought home to me one evening as I sat in my office following one particularly close vote in the House of Lords. The phone went and one of our chauffeurs said there was a problem – "I've got Lord X in the back of my car, and he can't remember where he lives."

All our hopes of using the House of Lords to prevent the abolition of democratic government in London were dashed as the Tory Chief Whip in the Lords woke up to the scale of our operation and set in motion a Tory counter-offensive.

Soon, peers that people assumed had been dead for 20 years were staggering around the Lords as we built to the climactic vote which, by chance, coincided with Ascot. Bertie Denham, who was cleverer than he looked, realised he had no chance of winning any votes before Ascot was over and the peerage rolled back from a day of gambling and debauchery at the races. His tactic was simply to provoke one peer after another to filibuster until the 6.40 train from Ascot got into Waterloo.

He succeeded. The last attempt to save the GLC failed by a handful of votes, but with it went any pretence that the House of Lords was a check on a dictatorial government.

While there is no case for retaining the hereditary peerage, the simple belief that those of us on the left had in



KEN LIVINGSTONE

*We face an upper house filled only with life peers, each a recipient of prime ministerial patronage*

a unicameral legislature has also taken a bit of a knock in recent years. It is now more than 20 years since the Labour Party conference called for the total abolition of the House of Lords. I, in those pre-Thatcher days, had no fear of a single, all-powerful House of Commons. While both parties always had their share of time servers they also had strong and independent-minded individuals in numbers capable of curtailing and humbling even the largest parliamentary majority.

As recently as 1988, Michael Foot and Enoch Powell combined to defeat a reform of the House of Lords remarkably similar to that we are considering today.

In those days, many senior figures from local government and the trade unions would come into parliament in

their 50s in much the way that successful figures from industry or the military would arrive on the Tory benches after a successful career outside the House. In Denis Healey's phrase, these people had a hinterland. They did not depend on parliament and were fully capable of walking away from it if they felt it necessary to do so. There was no question of these people being told how to vote by the whips or given fawning questions to softball at Ministers.

The problem today is that such people have become virtually extinct in both parties. Exceptions to the rule, such as Bob Marshall-Andrews, obscure the fact that almost nobody comes into parliament after a successful career outside machine politics. Increasingly, on both sides of the House, new MPs are career-minded politicians who have dreamed of being ministers since their schooldays.

The recent debacle of the cut in child benefit for single parents – when only one of Labour's 80 newly elected women chose to vote against the government – revealed more clearly than anything else that the House of Commons is no longer a safeguard against the all powerful executive.

With the removal of the hereditary peers we face the prospect of an upper house filled exclusively with life peers, each and every one of them a recipient of Prime Ministerial patronage. Even if the inhabitants of Britain's most luxurious old people's home could be worked up into a sufficient lather to oppose the government of the day, the Prime Minister could merely flood the House with newly created and more loyal life

peers. The obvious way out of this dilemma is a second chamber with the legitimacy and independence but a different electorate to that of the House of Commons.

Nobody in their right mind wants a situation in which legislation is bounced backwards and forwards between Lords and Commons with both chambers claiming democratic legitimacy for their obduracy. As in so many other constitutional areas we should examine the modern German constitution where a small upper chamber comprises elected representatives of the regional parliaments of Germany.

If only Labour were pressing ahead more rapidly with its plans for elected assemblies in England, we would have the ideal mechanism. Depending on population, three four or five representatives from each regional assembly could meet as an upper house.

In Germany the existence of such a chamber has led to a much greater degree of consensus in the political system. In his dealings with the upper House.

Helmut Kohl is facing powerful individuals who have their own independent political base but also have an understanding of the mechanics, possibilities and constraints of government.

Sadly however, yesterday's leaks from the Labour leadership suggest that, rather than speed up our programme of devolution to the regions, the government is thinking of putting off the election of the mayor and assembly for London back into the next millennium, blocking off in one stroke the most obvious way out of the upper chamber problem.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The Millennium Festival is not about parties, booze and fireworks. It's about things like choral festivals, youth sports games, oral history projects and things that matter to local communities."  
Chris Smith,  
Minister for culture

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives"  
Abba Eban,  
Israeli diplomat

**Where would you rather be watching England play Romania on June 22?**



Look on page 5 of this paper for your chance to WIN a table for 10 in Chelsea's Galleria to watch England play Romania on 22nd June, courtesy of Chelsea Exclusive Events Limited.

(All details and conditions of entry on page 5)

David Pauly, Bloomberg Online (Internet)

AFTER DECADES of soul-searching, Goldman Sachs Group LP is going public. The 190 partners of Wall Street's last big privately-held firm have voted to offer 10-15 per cent of their shares for sale, probably in The Fall. There are two reasons: greed and the obsession of executives for bigness.

The greed part shouldn't bother anybody. It's the partners' money to handle as they see fit. As it is now, their capital is locked into the firm and

younger employees work hard for years with payoffs of partnerships on their minds. The disturbing element of this move is that Goldman Sachs seems to have succumbed to the song of its own mergers advisers. It's one thing to tell customers in the drug or insurance business they must be gigantic to survive in today's cutthroat world; it's quite another to take the advice yourself.

Fortune Daily Business Report, (US)  
AS WE all knew all along, Gold-

## MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Goldman Sachs's decision to float part of the organisation

man decided to pull the trigger and go public. These guys are going to make so much money they'll never have to swim in an above-ground pool again.

Each partner is looking at

\$50 million all the way up to \$250 million. But here's an important caveat – Goldman says it will do the deal this Fall. If the markets continue to deteriorate the way they are now, no way

will Goldman be able to do the deal. They may have wished they had gone public six weeks ago; they have spent a lot of time deciding.

Kimberly Seals McDonald, New York Post  
BY THE TIME Goldman comes to market and is ready to make acquisitions, analysts say, the list of potential partners may be quite slim.

Analysts also speculate that banks and brokerage firms with acquisition plans in mind may be spurred to move quick-

er now that Goldman – flush with new cash – could become a potential bidder.

Financial Times (UK)  
THE JOINT-STOCK form of organisation has many virtues. It is surely not, however, mere sentimentalism to regret its universal triumph at the expense of mutual or partnership models.

After all, when a partnership risks its capital, it watches it with special vigilance, a point of particular relevance to financial regulators.



## PANDORA

WHAT DOES the well-dressed English boogian wear to a riot in Marseille? One garment which is very popular this year is the plastic bowler hat, emblazoned with the words "The Sun" (although "Snickers" is another desirable logo). The Sun's front page last Friday carried a photograph of Chris Evans, fist clenched, in this hat. (In fact, the picture dates back to Euro '96.) Evans yesterday condemned the "small minority" of violent fans on his breakfast radio programme, while *The Sun* poured scorn on Jimmy Shylock, the tattooed thug jailed by the French. However, readers could search the paper in vain for pictures of rioters wearing Sun beanie caps as proudly displayed by Des Lynam in the previous day's issue. On the other hand, *The Mirror's* front page carried a gallery of photos of English fans whom they accused of being "moronic, loathsome yobs". In pride of place? A grinning thug wearing a Sun bowler.

life's philosophy, Mellor writes, "The blow that doesn't break you makes you." Nobody says it better.

PETER MANDELSON joined with his Hartlepool constituents in mourning the loss of Andy Capp's creator, cartoonist Reg Smythe. Of course Andy Capp epitomised the old Labour "beer and sandwiches" brigade that Mandy has done so much to make almost extinct. When Pandora rang Mandelson's London office to see if the Minister without Portfolio would like to offer any personal words about the loss of Smythe, the staff's prime concern seemed to be "What part of the paper are you from?" Finally, it was admitted that their boss found Capp "very amusing". Up in Hartlepool, the Mandelson brigade were rather more relaxed on this dangerous issue and readily admitted that Dr Spin considered Capp "not completely modern but a picture of an earlier age. Entertaining for all that." Let's hope Mandy's Dome will earn equally high praise.

DR MICHAEL Smurfit was named "Irishman of the Year" at the Ireland Fund of Great Britain's annual summer ball held on Monday night at the Dorchester. Hailed as Ireland's greatest businessman, whose paper and packaging company has grown from a small local firm in the early 1970s into a multi-billion dollar international group employing over 50,000 people, Smurfit accepted the award with a moving speech in which he stressed his company's continuing commitment to investment throughout Northern Ireland. In fact, he revealed, his mother was a Belfast Catholic and his father an Englishman from Newcastle. In view of the controversy that has surrounded Newcastle business leaders like Sir John Hall and his son in recent months, Pandora suggests that Tyneside city leaders batten to adopt gracious, soft-spoken Smurfit as "Geordie of the Year" too.

"I'VE BEEN a windbag of a sort all my life," says David Mellor, as he opens his heart in *Radio Times* this week. Intimate confessions include having lunched with David Frost once a month for the past 15 years. He views his "mid-life crisis" as a lucky break that has led him to the wonderful world of broadcasting - and to his new wife, Penelope. Viscountess Coghlan. Summing up his



AN EARLY bird doesn't always catch its worm, as a photographer from the 'Express' learned on Monday morning. Arriving outside the Admiralty House apartment of John Prescott (left) at 6am, the goal was to snap the Deputy Prime Minister climbing into a government vehicle on No Car Day. Hours passed before the frustrated snapper was finally told that Prescott was at a meeting of European environment ministers - in Luxembourg.

## Pitfalls on the road to fairness



ANNE  
MCELVOY  
*Sexual equality has been declared a basic human right, but can it be fairly enforced?*

to prove a negative. Preparing a defence in a case where it is the boss's liability to prove that he was not being sexist is a lot more time-consuming (and thus expensive) than preparing a defence against a charge of discrimination where the complainant must provide evidence to this effect. The EOC has an unfailing inability to distinguish fairness from equality.

The EOC is not as green as it is cabbage-looking. It knows that employers will be loath to involve themselves in such predicaments. They will take preventative action by employing or promoting a quota of women, to prove their egalitarian credentials. But progress by quota is on a hiding to nothing. It reinforces the prejudice of those who believe that women are tokens. And it is unfair because it means that men and women are not viewed as individual employees, but as gender numbers to be weighed in the scale against one another.

The root cause of these distortions is the Commission's narrow view of equality. An organization which was supposed to give more opportunities to women ends up censoring all-women taxi-firms and car-safety courses and, on the wider shores of inanity, telling the RAC that it must abandon its policy of attending to stranded women drivers in preference to men - because these infringe a notional idea of gender equality.

I do not belong to the Association of Reactionary Coves who believe that the equal rights laws have

done no good; those who believe that the market alone will resolve the current situation in which women earn, on average, 20 per cent less than men ignore the circumstances in which most women return to the workplace after children.

But the problem is at the bottom end of the earnings and skills scale. The Commission would do better to channel its energies into convincing employers that women in the workforce are a valuable, stabilizing asset (they take fewer days off sick during the World Cup, for instance), than by attempting social engineering with the clumsy spamer of legislation.

What does "sex equality" mean beyond the posture of eloquence? Human rights are irreducible - the right to life, habeas corpus, the right not to be tortured. But to place sex equality in this list - when the prospects of enforcing the rights of Saudi women to be bar-staff are remote - undermines the EOC's credentials.

The broad sweep of the document is worrying. "The complexity and confusion of the present laws are likely to impede rather than help

future progress. We believe that sex equality is a basic human right and that legislation must protect that right. As a society, we need to shift the responsibility away from the individual having to fight for their rights and acknowledge that public bodies and employers must take the lead."

Thus are the sound recommendations of the consultation - the pressing need to clarify maternity rights so that perfectly healthy pregnant women are not compared with sick men, the need for a tighter definition of sexual harassment - drowned out by a barrage of illiberal nonsense and de haut en bas declarations about what "we", "society" and the Equal Opportunities Commission (note how slipperily these are elided) must and must not do.

I thus conclude regretfully that the EOC is not my ideal knight on a charger. It has developed an agenda far beyond its original brief. It is longer believes that its goal is merely to prevent discrimination; it seeks to visit on us, through law, its view of equality and how we may or may not achieve it. That does us no favours, men or women.

## Memo to Mr Hague: Europe can't save you



JOHN  
CURTICE

*Recovery from the election disaster may be more difficult to achieve than Hague imagines*

RECOVERY FROM last year's General Election disaster may be more difficult to achieve than William Hague imagines. Recent developments suggest that Tony Blair could strengthen the foundations upon which his landslide victory rested. These conclusions emerge from an analysis of the results of the 1997 British Election Study, which will be presented to MPs today.

In just the last week, two developments illustrate how Labour could consolidate its victory. The first is the programme of constitutional change endorsed by the joint Cabinet committee on which both Labour and the Liberal Democrats sit. Such announcements can only give the impression that there is little to choose between the two parties. This impression is one reason why the Conservatives did so badly last May. In terms of votes Labour's performance was not impressive. At 44 per cent, it was lower than achieved at any election between 1945 and 1966. Meanwhile the Liberal Democrats' share fell for the third election in a row. Yet both parties achieved record numbers of seats, leaving the Conservatives with just 165.

One explanation for this divergence between votes and seats is tactical voting. One in 20 voters switched their vote between the two opposition parties to try to defeat the local incumbent Conservative. They cost the Conservatives no fewer than 25 seats.

Just why were so many voters prepared to vote tactically? It did not reflect a new sophistication amongst voters. Rather, it was simply that more voters had the motivation to vote tactically.

This motivation was a simple one. Previous elections have shown that tactical voters tend to be those who dislike one party strongly but do

not have much of a preference between the other two. In 1997 there were more voters than ever before who did not have a strong preference between Labour and the Liberal Democrats but who at the same time definitely disliked the Conservatives. Not surprisingly, where appropriate these voters simply opted for whichever party could best defeat the Conservatives.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats sent out clear signals to the electorate before the 1997 election that their parties were indeed relatively close to each other. Paddy Ashdown dropped his policy of "equidistance" between Labour and the Conservatives. Labour agreed a programme of constitutional reform with the Liberal Democrats. Last week's affirmation of that programme can only reinforce the impression of closeness.

There are, of course, important hurdles that the Labour and Liberal Democrat collaboration will have to cross between now and the next

election, not least what position Tony Blair will adopt on the Jenkins Commission's recommendations for a new Westminster voting system. But if collaboration between the parties continues and the existing electoral system is still in place, the Conservatives could again suffer from tactical voting.

The second development to show the problems the strategy poses for William Hague was Gordon Brown's announcement that the Government would sell off further national assets, including the National Air Traffic Control System. This is not the latest stage in Labour's rapid retreat from the philosophy of nationalisation.

There is no doubt that voters have noticed and largely approve of Labour's switch. In 1993, when Labour was crushed by its worst-ever defeat, no fewer than four in five voters put themselves to the right of Labour on the issue of nationalisation. By 1997 less than half did so. On no other issue has there been such a profound change in people's perceptions of the Labour Party.

Allied to this change in Labour's perceived issue position has been a change in its image. In 1987, 60 per cent of voters believed that Labour did not look after the interests of big business. By last year's election that proportion had halved. And those in big business themselves have responded. Over the last 18 years Labour's vote has grown amongst managers in big firms by more than in any other social group.

In short, Tony Blair's repositioning of the Labour Party has not only helped gather an informal coalition of tactical voters; it has also eaten into heartland Conservative support. True, neither Labour nor the Conservatives will ever win an election simply on the votes of big business. But unless the Conservatives can re-



William Hague: yet to find a credible strategy

establish themselves with such a traditional core constituency, it is unlikely to persuade the rest of the electorate.

But perhaps William Hague believes he has a secret weapon - Europe. With the Government evidently edging ever closer to supporting Britain's adoption of the euro, the battle lines between the two parties are gradually becoming clearer. At the next election voters are likely to have as clear a choice on Europe as they have had since Labour abandoned its 1983 policy of withdrawal.

Here also, the results of the British Election Study provide William Hague with little comfort.

In the 1997 election study we were able to follow the political behaviour and attitudes of a group of nearly 2,000 voters throughout the course of the last parliament. And one feature of those who backed the Referendum Party in 1997 is clear - they had already defected from the Conservative cause before the party was founded. Just one in 10 1997 Referendum voters backed the Con-

servatives in the 1994 European elections whereas nearly three in 10 voted Labour or Liberal Democrat. Rather than costing the Conservatives seats, the intervention of the Referendum Party may in fact have helped to save one or two seats from Labour and the Liberal Democrats. An anti-European stance now is unlikely to be sufficient to persuade them to return to the Tory fold.

A Labour victory at the next election is, of course, far from inevitable. Events could yet turn one of Britain's more popular post-war governments into just another unpopular administration. But Tony Blair appears to be pursuing a strategy that may maximise his chances of a second victory, while William Hague has yet to find a credible way to respond.

John Curtice is deputy director and Anthony Heath and Roger Jowell are co-directors of the ESRC Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends, which conducted the 1997 British Election Study.

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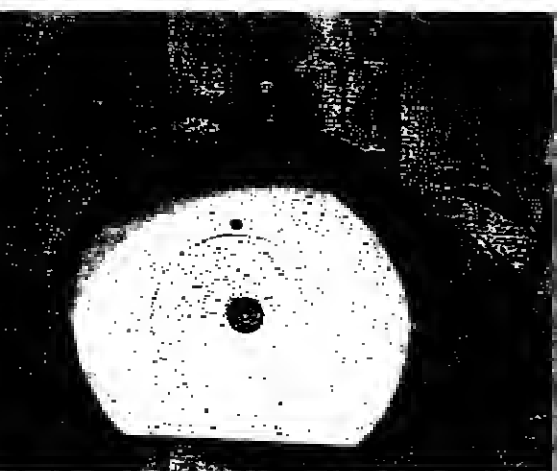
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IND577

## Solving drug crime with intelligence

THE DRUGS trade is global. It's big business, and exploits international opportunities. But unlike legitimate business, it doesn't recognise any rules, acts covertly and constantly forms and reforms alliances.

Recently, Interpol provided the following chilling strategic analysis of the global drug trade. The analysis indicated that the illicit global drug trade is exploding.

There is increasing demand met by an increasing supply. In 1997 between 300 and 400 tons of heroin was produced for illicit use. 150 countries reported heroin as a problem, either as a producer, transit or consumer country. Interpol indicates that heroin reaching Europe emanates principally from South-west Asia, but also from South-east Asia and the Americas (Columbia and Mexico). In 1997 between 700 and 1000 tons of cocaine was produced in South America for illicit use.

We also know that cocaine is reaching western Europe directly from South America via sea and air routes and indirectly via eastern Europe and Africa.

Cannabis remains the world number one drug of choice. But the illicit use of synthetic drugs in the United Kingdom is high and increasing.

Interpol's analysis suggests that synthetic drugs will be the nightmare of the Millennium. Synthetic drugs are relatively easy to make, can provide high levels of purity, make use of increasingly available precursor chemicals, are easily smuggled and are highly profitable. In 1997, the United States dismantled 1,200 illegal methamphetamine laboratories. In Thailand for example, there are one million amphetamine users, and abuse throughout Asia is growing rapidly. Within Europe, the UK is the greatest user of synthetic drugs.

I have not made these comments for effect or to dramatise, but to illustrate the size of the problem and the importance of information and intelligence in directing our law enforcement activity.

Those involved in trafficking drugs are flexible, innovative and increasingly sophisticated. For example, cocaine in canned pineapples in Venezuela was recently



## PODIUM

JOHN ABBOTT

*From a speech by the Director General of the National Criminal Intelligence Service to the Chief Constables' Drugs Conference*

detected in Russia, in another case, drugs were sealed in lead ingots impervious to X-rays or external examination.

Drug trafficking is the kernel of organised crime in the United Kingdom. There are at least two reasons for this.

The first is the attraction of the vast profits to be made - between £3 and £5bn. Worldwide it is more than £200bn.

The second is that the level of organisation required to participate in the market is considerable.

Experience in the UK has indicated that the intelligence led approach is more effective in tackling crime than other traditional investigative methods. This is undoubtedly true in tackling drugs. Top level criminals rarely get their own hands dirty; forensic evidence is not likely to be available; witnesses are few and may be intimidated to avoid giving evidence and admissions are extremely unlikely, particularly from the leaders of organised criminal groups.

The effective development and exchange of information and intelligence is therefore crucial. With good intelligence it is possible to identify opportunities for gathering evidence against them.

It won't surprise you that I think that gathering, developing and analysing information and producing intelligence is the most effective way forward for enforcement, particularly if we are to stifle the availability of illegal drugs on our streets - which you will appreciate is the aim of the

Government's recently announced 10-year strategy for tackling drug misuse.

This approach is relevant to all levels of drug enforcement. The new strategy also acknowledges this, with each of the four aims emphasising the importance of making use of the best available information to direct and assess progress. I suggest that NCIS is the intelligence exchange network that law enforcement should be using to tackle serious and organised crime. Our raison d'être is to encourage and enhance the co-ordination and exchange of information and intelligence.

While we focus primarily on the criminal rather than the crime, I can report that at least 80 per cent of our intelligence development work is linked to drugs and, virtually without exception, each of these had an international aspect.

Information and intelligence exchange which drives operational activity is not an option; it is a necessity. The only option is how well we are going to do it. The solution, largely rests with us all.



# The man who went his own way



RUPERT CORNWELL

*What is so extraordinary is that Germany has not seriously rocked the European boat before*

POOR HELMUT Kohl. Mrs Thatcher demanded her money back, and in the end she had her way. Last October the French, again in a minority of one, demanded that their man be president of the new European Central Bank. They dug in their heels, and in the end they had their way.

Now, at what is probably his valedictory European summit, a German Chancellor has dared to protest at his country's appointed role as Europe's eternal, uncomplaining paymaster. Germany demands a reduction of its net contribution to the EU budget. And a continent has trembled.

"Why all the fuss when we do this?" the Chancellor mused in bewilderment one evening this week in Cardiff. Britain and France can behave badly and everyone takes it for granted, was the gist of his argument - but Germany, they say, heaven forbid, don't the Germans understand they can't rock the boat like this?

But what is truly extraordinary is that Germany hasn't seriously rocked the boat before. A little Brussels-bashing now proves a simple truth. Half a century after the war that destroyed it, Germany is a normal country again. Goodness gracious, it's even made Europe an issue in a domestic political campaign.

This autumn, Germany holds elections. The Chancellor's Christian Democrats are making up some ground, but they are still well behind the Social Democratic opposition. Mr Kohl knows full well that the matter will not be, cannot be, resolved before Germany goes to the polls in October: indeed, for obvious reasons, Commission proposals on the budget will not be published until after the vote.

But he has put down a marker, and not just to troublesome Eurosceptics in his ruling coalition. Like Mrs Thatcher a decade and a half ago, he will present himself to voters as a doughty defender of national interests. In a Germany whose views of Europe have long since lost the shine of innocent idealism, that stance will surely pay.

An untested opponent will be



Chancellor Helmut Kohl cuts a lonely figure at a recent football match

portrayed as a European pushover, ripe for the taking by the ruthless French and the cunning British. No matter that Kohl's last stand comes fully 16 years after he took office, and that the Social Democrat leader Gerhard Schröder, a generation younger than the Chancellor and even less encumbered by the legacy of Nazism, can be relied upon to stick up for German interests resolutely.

Mr Kohl has put his marker down. And the special nature of German politics favours his game. Abrupt change is not the German way, and the current likelihood outcome of the election is a grand coalition of Social Democrats and Christian Democrats. Mr Schröder may become chancellor, but the CDU (though, admittedly, probably not Mr Kohl) will have a voice in the new government. In other words, the Chancellor's attacks on Brussels are rather more than just a desperate throw in a doomed re-election campaign.

Reverse the tables a moment. What would have been the reaction in Britain had ICI been levied a record fine by the Brussels Com-

mission for price-fixing, or if the British Government had been told that state aid for a major investment by a British company to help revive Merseyside fell foul of EU regulations?

Volkswagen has been on the receiving end of such decisions by Brussels, and Mr Kohl has been outraged. In a world of globalisation and great corporations playing off one country against another as they pursue their favours, the EU may yet emerge as protector of the consumer and proper competition in a way that national governments no longer can. Right now, though, the Blairite vision of a "People's Europe", which Messrs Kohl and Schröder profess to love, is all very well - so long as it is "my people". Not just for those proven grumblers, the French and the British, but for the Germans as well. And why not?

The old cliché of Germany as economic giant and political dwarf has long since gone. Politically, the encumbrances of defeat and division across the front line of the Cold War have vanished. The old hinterlands of Mittel Europa have been restored. Germany is as forceful as

Britain in demanding military intervention, if necessary, against President Milosevic in Kosovo. The country is frightened of its past but no longer hamstrung by it. Thus the Kohl vision, for ever distrusted by Mrs Thatcher and her admittedly dwindling band of followers, of "a European Germany, not a German Europe."

But a European Germany means a Germany which, like Britain, France and even those smaller countries that love to do the mantle of Euro-sainthood, plays Europe for what it can get. And why not?

The megalithic, seamlessly prosperous Germany of legend died along with the Berlin Wall. True, the country is still wealthier than Britain. But reunification has endowed it with the depressed lands of the former East, whose problems not even the transfer of some DM 1.5 trillion - a sum not far short of Britain's annual gross domestic product - has managed to solve.

Not unnaturally Mr Kohl wants his money back, or at least some of it. Germany's net contribution of £7bn a year to the EU budget is

more than double that of the Netherlands and Britain. In the context of the money spent on former East Germany it is not a great deal. But the symbolism is crucial. Germany can no longer be everybody's paymaster.

And where Germany treads, those other EU "creditors", the Swedes, the Dutch and the Austrians, will follow. An unholy argument is in store. Britain, still the third largest net contributor, insists that the Thatcher rebate of 1984 is not on the table. In fact, if the budget is to be redrawn, everything will be on the table: not just Britain's special deal, but also the handsome budget "surpluses" enjoyed by Ireland, Spain, Greece and Portugal.

The budget argument cannot be divorced from reform of regional and agricultural policies, which account for the lion's share of all EU spending. And these in turn cannot be divorced from enlargement.

Entry of Poland and other members of the old Soviet Bloc, with their decrepit industry and primitive agriculture, will require a re-ordering of regional funds. But like the British, the fortunate ones

who benefit are adamant that they will not lose out. The German budget problem is thus one facet of a wider, deeper truth: that the EU built for the Six in 1957, adjusted over the years to accommodate 9, 10, 12 and now 15, must be radically overhauled if tomorrow's Europe of 20, 21 or even 26 is to be workable.

So how to square the circle? The odd brave soul in the Commission still pretends this is not a zero-sum game, that somehow the advantages of Spain, Greece and the rest can be preserved while coping with the drain on resources when enlargement happens. But thinking now is shifting towards dropping the current clumsy system of raising EU revenues from the VAT receipts and import tariffs of individual countries, and substituting a straight levy on GDP.

That would not only have the merit of fairness; it would also see both Britain and Germany paying less than now. The dispute will not be resolved until mid-1999 at the earliest. But one thing is already clear. If the Kohl era is ending, so is the era of pushover Germany.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

JACK CHARLTON



The former England footballer argues against recalling the English team from the World Cup

WE MUST not give these idiots, these so-called England supporters, the opportunity to say they have defeated all our attempts to contain them - and that's why it would be wrong to bring the England team home from the World Cup. As hard as it is to understand, they would look on England's expulsion as some kind of victory.

If we continue to witness violence on the scale that was perpetrated in Marseilles, then I do believe that FIFA will send us home, but I would still argue it would not be a wise decision.

Send the troublemakers home by all means, but leave the football team there.

It could be that banning the team would only cause more problems; some would seize upon it as a genuine excuse for fighting and causing mayhem.

It's a very depressing situation and something needs to be done, but don't ask me what. It's difficult because these people only show themselves every now and again; they turn up only at the big events.

I was privileged to be in charge of the Republic of Ireland team who were followed around the world by thousands of fanatical, boisterous supporters. These fans were always impeccably behaved. If somebody stepped out of line, or was a little worse for wear, it was normal for his mates to get him out of the way until he had sobered up. They had a way of controlling themselves.

To the English fans in France who got caught up in the trouble, I would say give the jobs a wide berth. It doesn't take much intelligence to identify them and get out of their way. Leave them to the French police to sort out. Better that than to have the whole team sent home.

That would only be playing into the hooligans' hands.

## Daddy, she hardly knew you

DAVID BLUNDY was a brilliant, if eccentric, foreign correspondent. He was a divorcee with a daughter, Anna, and from the time she was about 11 he would occasionally take her with him on his assignments.

Anna found herself in a world of glamour, romance and expense accounts. As she tells us in this frank and moving story of her relationship with her doomed dad, she spent a lot of time around the swimming-pools of foreign luxury hotels with marble floors and glass lifts, while tall, handsome and shambolic Blundy held forth at the all-night bar, the most interesting man in the place, usually trying to get off with his best friend's girl.

It was a teenager's dream; Anna was constantly going to places she knew about from the cinema and songs. In New York, she and Dad ate in the red leather seats of the Russian Tea Rooms (bookies), saw New York light up from the Rainbow Room of the Rockefeller Plaza (Sleepless in Seattle) and ate oysters at Elaine's (Woody Allen films and Billy Joel songs).

On the occasions when Blundy left her behind, she struggled to cope. "People were forever telling me how much Dad missed me when he was away, but missing someone is the easy part. Being there takes the effort." But he phoned, and wrote letters and funny postcards and - who knows? - next time maybe he would take her to Cairo, Jerusalem or Timbuktu.

Then, on 17 November 1989, when Anna, then 19, was in her rooms at Oxford and Blundy was in San Salvador without her, a sniper shot and killed him during fighting between government troops and left-wing rebels. He was dead and gone - today, tomorrow, for ever.

Anna coped for a while and then fell apart. In a way, perhaps unconsciously, her father had been training her to replace him. One day, when she was lying in a rocking-chair in Massachusetts, he



### WEDNESDAY BOOK

EVERY TIME WE SAY GOODBYE  
BY ANNA BLUNDY  
CENTURY, £12.99, 225P

threw a huge purple book in her lap and suggested she keep a diary. Wandering along some foreign street, he suddenly said, "what would you do if someone opened fire on us now?"

But he was gone before she was ready to make it on her own, both emotionally and professionally. She drank too much, slept around, went to a shrink, and wrote journalism that her father's friends despised. "I could only focus on the galling lack of similarities between myself and my father. He left before telling me what to do."

So she set out to go to those places he had been without her, in the hope that she might become immune to sadness. She picked up some of the attraction of the foreign correspondence game - "the thrill of arriving alone, somewhere hot and totally alien, into a situation that is completely unpredictable."

And, she might have added, the challenge of explaining what the hell is going on in 2,000 gripping words, polished and filed within 48 hours.

Gradually, she learnt a lot more

about Blundy. He was an original. Restless, inquisitive, compassionate, depressed, he was terrified of the day it would all end and he would join the club of other one-time foreign correspondents - raddled, emotionally damaged, drunken bodes who, unless they had married well, did brain-numbing desk-jobs and lived in the suburbs, wondering where their life had gone.

Finally, Anna went to El Salvador. She stayed in the hotel where Dad had stayed. She sought out Dad's colleagues and friends. She went to the spot where he had been shot. She heard from a colleague that Dad's last words had been "Get me out of here". But she also heard that, only hours before, he had said "I'm getting a little too old for this business."

Then she came back to London and found that her survival plan had worked.

"A decade of mourning was over. I had finally said goodbye to Dad for the very last time. Not only was I still alive but I felt great... I had finally acknowledged that he wasn't coming back and had been to El Salvador to say goodbye. [Now] there was room for someone else."

Anna Blundy, who is soon to be a parent herself, has written a fine account of an unusual father-daughter relationship. She acknowledges what might have been if her father had not died. She and Dad might have become adult friends. Blundy might have continued to be one of the world's best foreign correspondents. But she is too much her father's daughter to deny the other possibilities.

He might have become a grumpy old man. He had already enjoyed the best of that period in journalism when foreign correspondents counted for something. Maybe he sensed that those happy days were over for everyone.

PHILIP KNIGHTLEY

### WEDNESDAY POEM

QUARRY  
BY JOHN ASHBERRY

I was lying, lying down,  
reading the last plays of  
Shakespeare.

A brat came to me, eyes squealing,  
excitement its thing. Until I put two  
and two together

I never crossed the inlet  
or realised what tributary meant.  
O we all have fine times

in the spring she said.

No one needs to know pretty much  
about that attitude I suppose,  
yet there are riders, and puzzles,  
and soon,  
baking at the long end of day  
a poor cloud measures its shadow,  
the intent of all those gone away.

This poem comes from  
John Ashberry's latest collection,  
'Wakefulness', which is published  
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# Lucio Costa

IT WAS the commission of the century: the town plan for a brand new capital city in the underdeveloped heartland of Brazil. The competition to find the modern city of the future was won by the architect Lucio Costa. His winning sketch for the town plan of Brasília in 1957 – for which he was up against 70 other international town planners – is a simple cross. The judges, who included Sir William Holford from the Royal Institute of British Architects, called his sketches accompanied by a short hand-written text “clear, direct and fundamentally simple, the rational project of urban essence”.

That cross, which Costa described as “the primary expression of those who mark or claim a place”, broke out of the rectilinear grid of Victorian towns drawn up on graph paper. Manhattan, Brisbane and Harare are all grid-locked. There hasn't been a city like Brasília before or since. “I had the impression I had landed on another planet,” Yuri Gagarin said on reaching Brasília.

Yet, by the time Costa died, he had been forgotten. The man who created Brazil's capital lived in Rio de Janeiro – the old capital – on a modest pension after more than 40 years as architect for the Ministry of Education, without having been offered the honour of the Citizenship of Brasília. President Fernando Henrique Cardoso declared three days' national mourning for Costa (clearly an admirer: Cardoso sent Costa a hero's gram for his 95th birthday). Costa knew, the president said, “at the same time how to assimilate the best foreign contemporary influences and cultivate a plastic quality deeply Brazilian”.

“Plasticity” in Brazil carries as emotive a punch as the salsa: abstract expressionism is about as close as the rest of the world get to an understanding of the phrase which embraces organic, fluid and colourful.

In truth, Costa was little known outside architectural circles until 1957 when he won the competition to design Brazil's new capital. The Fitzcarrald of this ambitious and controversial project was the modernist and left-wing President Juscelino Kubitschek. He wanted to attract foreign investment and to bring employment to a barren area

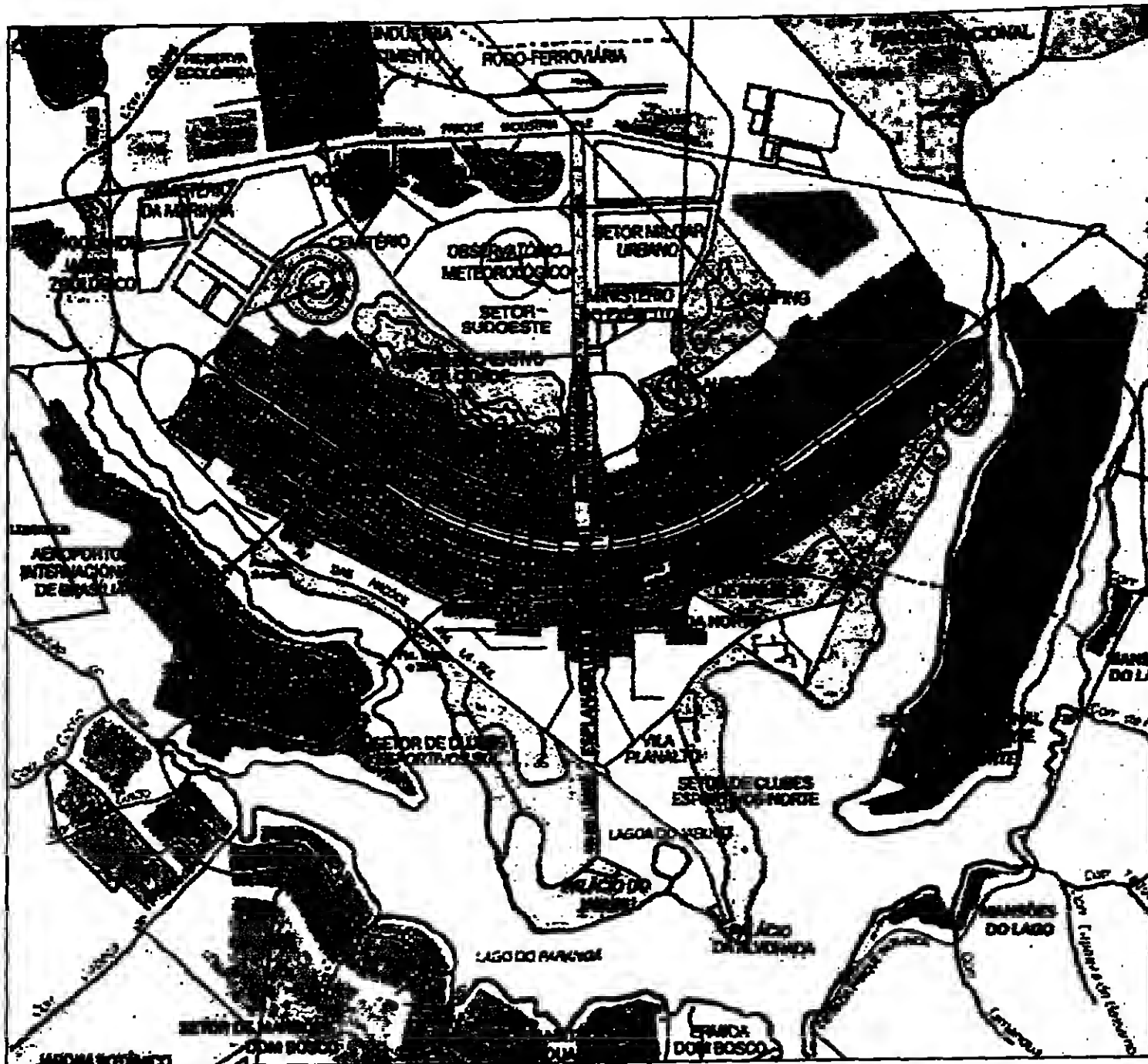
in just three years from his vision to the inauguration in 1960.

As Costa's Pilot Plan of 1957 filled up with airports and cemeteries, reservoirs and government buildings from the legislative assembly to foreign affairs, the city began to look less like the original cross and more like an aeroplane. In plan and in the scale model at the Lucio Costa Centre housed in a chamber below the Three Powers Square (designed by Costa as an equilateral triangle for the presidential headquarters, the supreme court and the legislative assembly, all of which were designed by Oscar Niemeyer), a plane emerges with the main body and two wings. Early on, when the site was being cleared of scrubland bushes and thorn, the ground plan in aerial photographs is shaped like a stealth bomber.

From the airport in the tail, heading north along the main axis, a 16km road to the triangle of the Three Powers Square, at the nose, the north-south axis is intersected by the *superquadras* – the residential complexes. Cab drivers like to describe the street plan as like a fish skeleton, with residential streets the fishbones. Fish or plane. Lucio Costa would not countenance either: “It would be completely stupid to make a city in the form of a plane,” he told the *Correio Braziliense* newspaper just after his 95th birthday. “Ridiculous. It's never been a plane. It's as if it were a butterfly.”

This butterfly landed with a bit of thump. First the diplomats hated it and fled Brasília at weekends which grew longer and longer until the city was only inhabited from Tuesday to Thursday. Even in October last year White House officials accompanying President Clinton on a state visit to Brasília were given a printed hand-out advising them that the city was “soulless and sterile”; the President later had to apologise. Then the city grew too fast. In the Eighties despite the Brazilian dollar being in free-fall, Costa, who had planned the city for 500,000 inhabitants by the year 2000, underestimated the lure of foreign exchange. As the population of Brasília swelled to 1.7m in 1996, satellite cities sprung up in clusters around it.

Criticism mounted too. The most common complaint levelled at Costa



It's as if it were a butterfly. Costa's winning 1957 Pilot Plan for Brasília, the new capital city of Brazil

was that the city turns its back on Lake Paranoá, which was formed in 1957 by blocking a gorge.

Costa, who welcomed the satellite cities as a way of taking the pressure off Brasília – “the genuine democratic capital of the country” – resisted any building taller than six storeys as strongly as he had condemned a move in the early 1990s to build condominiums in the main squares. “As the capital Brasília needs its own personality, a certain monumentality in the affirmative sense, Brasília is the capital of the country, not a provincial town.”

Born in 1902 in Toulon, France, where his Bahian-born father was posted with the Brazilian navy as a naval engineer, Lucio Costa later moved to England and then Switzerland, where he lived during the

First World War. He returned to Brazil in 1918 when, without any discussion, his father enrolled him in the National School of Fine Arts in Rio de Janeiro, still firmly run on the Beaux-Arts neoclassical principles. There he discovered Le Corbusier and embraced modernism, which he deployed in the construction of new buildings for the Ministry of Education.

Lucio Costa was always overshadowed by the architect Oscar Niemeyer. Even when Costa won the competition to design the perfect city, it ended up as the canvas on which Niemeyer could pin some of the most beautiful buildings of this century. In his pursuit of a tensile attenuated sculptural form, Niemeyer stretched concrete to its limits in longer spans and thinner volumes than the world had even seen.

By comparison, Costa's 224-metre television tower, which can be seen from almost every point of Brasília, is a pedestrian building, most popular for the handicrafts fair staged at its staid base every weekend. When Niemeyer graduated as an architect, his first job was in Costa's practice. “I couldn't pay him any money but despite that, he stayed,” Costa recalled. In 1939 the two men collaborated on the design for the Brazilian Pavilion at the New York World Fair – a neobaroque building that fell disappointingly flat in its historicism.

In the last few decades the two men lived close to one another on the waterfront in Rio de Janeiro, but as they got older and more infirm they seldom visited each other. This year, aged 93, Oscar Niemeyer was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture, the most prestigious award on the architectural circuit.

Costa paid this back-handed compliment to his old friend: “I believe that Oscar is righteous and competent.”

Lucio Costa's wife, Julieta, died in a road accident for which he felt responsible as he was driving. When asked last year by *Correio Braziliense* if he had any plans for the future, Costa answered: “To die, as simple as that. I dream of a tomb in the St John the Baptist's Cemetery in Rio.”

Nonie Nicsewand

Lucio Costa, architect and town planner; born Toulon, France 26 February 1902; married (wife deceased; one daughter); died Rio de Janeiro 14 June 1998.

# Professor Charles T. Davis

CHARLES T. DAVIS was an eminent Dante scholar as well as a man of wit (on occasion mordant) and expansive geniality.

His *Dante and the Idea of Rome* (1967) is seminal for placing Dante in a firm intellectual and historical context, using primary sources in a systematic and provable way. Thanks to his own profound knowledge of classical and medieval sources, he was able to illuminate Dante's debt both to Roman republicanism and to medieval prophetic sources – such as Joachim of Flora and the Spiritual Franciscans.

These two different traditions continued to provide Davis with keys to unlocking Dante's world, which he went on to explore in a series of penetrating studies collected in *Dante's Italy and Other Essays* (1994). The volume contains studies of Dante's eschatology, as well as studies of education in Dante's Florence, of his teacher Brunetto Latini, the preacher Remigio de Girolami, and another friar, the historian Ptolemy of Lucca, all dedicated republicans long before the more famous 15th-century “civic humanists”.

By exposing another historian, Malispina, as a fraud, Davis opened the way for a better understanding of the 14th century and for his final major project, on Giovanni Villani, the important merchant-chronicler.

Davis's roots lay in Mississippi, where his grandfather aroused his love of history and his mother taught him Latin, and tenaciously they remained there until his death. For after being appointed Professor of Medieval History at Tulane University in 1964, at the early age of 31, he never moved, dying in New Orleans of heart failure while still in harness. But in fact he had two, if not three, homes, the second in Oxford and the third in Florence. Davis went to Oxford in 1950 as a Rhodes Scholar at St John's College, staying on to do his doctoral work there. Since his Alma Mater subsequently became the home of his real mother, Sarah Till Davis, a scholar herself, Oxford and St John's formed important staging posts on Davis's annual tour of Europe.

The other staging post was Florence, his hostelry the Pensione Bandini. Later, Florence was succeeded by Rome as his favourite Italian locus, the place where he most happily spent his summers with his wife Cecilia Meyer Davis, a distinguished art-historian of early Christian and medieval Rome, and with his two sons Bernard and Frank.

It was in Florence that I first met him, in 1957, when he was the presiding genius of the pensione's famous loggia overlooking “Holy Ghost Square”. He had just embarked on his definitive career as a “Dantista”, his first book, *Dante and the Idea of Rome*, having been printed by the Oxford University Press with enviable speed only a year after he was awarded his doctorate.

It was a year later, in the summer of 1958, “when I happened to be staying in my old college in Oxford and Kantorowicz was visiting Maurice Bowra in Wadham College” – Davis recorded in an article, “Kantorowicz and Dante”, that came out only after his death – “[that] I received one evening a message that Kantorowicz would like to meet me”.

The great medieval historian Ernst Kantorowicz was the author of *Kaiser Friedrich II* (1927) and his *The King's Two Bodies* had been published, like Davis's *Dante*, in 1957. The encounter between the two took place the next morning at nine, under the great beech tree in Wadham Garden. But far from being the meeting of minds that autobiographies like to record, Davis, then “grappling... with good grey British history books like Tout's *Chapters of Administrative History*”, found Kantorowicz and his “political theology” rather baffling. Neither, it emerged, had got far with each other's volumes. This semi-ironic tale tells its own story about Davis's style and approach to life.

Davis suffered what would seem the cruellest of fates when he lost his eyesight in 1991. That he continued triumphantly to teach, to write and contribute papers to conferences is due not only to his own determined spirit but in large part to the loving care of his wife Cecilia and his sons – assisted by the new electronic age.

His sudden and unexpected death on the brink of retirement seems a second cruel blow, only partly mitigated by his successful completion, days before he died, of his book on Villani. It will serve as a memorial, but is no substitute for the company and friendship of this eminent, learned and fun-loving man.

Alison Brown

Charles Till Davis, historian; born Natchez, Mississippi 14 April 1929; Professor of Medieval History, Tulane University, New Orleans 1964-98; Mellon Professor of the Humanities 1987; President, Dante Society of America 1991-97; Member of the American Philosophical Society 1998; married 1961 Cecilia Meyer (two sons); died New Orleans, Louisiana 10 April 1998.

# Anne Wood

ALTHOUGH SHE trained as a singer, and had a successful career as a contralto in oratorio, concert, recital and broadcasting, Anne Wood is best remembered as a teacher and an opera administrator.

During her 30-year-long struggle with the musical establishment, she fought two major battles, and though she lost them both they were honourable defeats. She was involved with the English Opera Group, the Opera Studio – which became the National School of Opera, and was finally swallowed up by the new London Opera Centre: that was the first battle. In 1965 she founded Phoenix Opera, and remained general manager for 10 years, until the Arts Council withdrew its grant: that was the second battle.

Wood was born in Crawley, and educated at St Mary's, Caine. She studied singing privately, with George Parker, Elena Gerhardt and Eve de Ruessy. Considered a fine Handelian, she also sang much modern music and took part in a number of first performances of choral works by British composers, including Britten's *Spring Symphony*. During the Second World War she



worked first for Cema (the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts, the forerunner of the Arts Council). She was then employed by the Ministry of Economic Warfare on secret work. After the end of the war in Europe, she worked for UNRRA, as Liaison Officer with other voluntary organisations in the British zone of Germany.

In 1948 she became an artistic director of the English Opera Group, formed the previous year by Ben-

jamin Britten, with John Piper and Eric Crozier. The same year, with the soprano Joan Cross, she founded the Opera Studio, which offered post-graduate dramatic training for the opera stage. No such teaching school existed in Britain at that time.

In 1952 the Opera Studio became the Opera School. The premises at the de Walden Institute in north-west London were cramped, so student performances such as *The Marriage of Figaro* (1956) and *Albert Herring* (1957) were given at the Scala Theatre, Charlotte Street. The school's next change of name, in 1958, to National School of Opera, involved a move to larger premises at Morley College, which boasted a theatre. In April that year Cross and Wood took the opportunity to offer a genuine grand opera, Gluck's *Iphigenia in Aulis*, which had only been performed once before in London.

The *Tales of Hoffman*, which the NSO performed in 1962, won universal praise. There were two casts of students, strengthened with young professionals, many of whom, like Pauline Tinsley, were themselves former students. Tinsley and the Australian soprano Marie Col-

lier were probably the NSO's finest alumnae. Auber's *Fra Diavolo*, in April 1963, the school's last production, was also highly praised.

The London Opera Centre (founded by the Arts Council to the tune of £20,000, whereas the NSO had received no grant), which opened in September 1963, took over the functions of the National School of Opera. Its board of directors headed by Sir David Webster, General Administrator of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, offered Wood the position of Director of Studies. In 1964, both resigned.

Phoenix Opera was founded in 1965, with Wood as General Manager, and Cross, William Chappell, Ralph Koltai and Václav Tausky as artistic directors. Its first production, *Così fan tutte*, toured to schools and universities before arriving at Bath in June 1966: Yehudi Menuhin, director of the Bath festival, conducted, his debut as an opera conductor.

Phoenix returned to Bath in 1967 to perform another Mozart opera, *The Seraglio*, and in 1968 for a double bill of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* and Mozart's *The Impresario*. Menuhin played the solo violin part

in the former, and conducted the latter, wearing an 18th-century wig.

Phoenix Opera received its small Arts Council grant for the purpose of touring and touring it did, visiting 66 towns and cities with 12 different operas during its short existence. *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Don Pasquale* were given at the York Festival in 1969; *Albert Herring* joined the repertory in 1970, directed by Cross, the original Lady Billows. At the 1971 Brighton Festival a highly inventive production of *The Barber of Seville* was staged by Tyrone Guthrie, who died shortly after.

In 1973 a visit by the company to Wimbledon gave London opera lovers a chance to see Friedrich von Flotow's *Martha*, a comparative rarity, as well as *Madam Butterfly*. Phoenix was back at Brighton in 1974 for Offenbach's *La Vie parisienne*.

Phoenix's last major tour, in August 1975, was to festivals in Austria and Yugoslavia, sponsored by the British Council. I accompanied this tour, which included Villaci, Ljubljana, Split, Portoroz and Dubrovnik. The two programmes consisted of *The Beggar's Opera*, in a version by Carl Davis, and a double bill of

*Dido and Aeneas* with J-F Lampe's *Pyramus and Thisbe*.

The journey across the mountain passes between Austria and Yugoslavia was spectacular but also terrifying as the musicians opened their duty-free liquor; however Anne Wood shepherded her unruly flock safely to the various theatres, most of which were in the open air. Audiences were large and enthusiastic. It was a golden time, more especially in view of later events, not only Yugoslavia, but also in London, where Phoenix Opera's fate was sealed. The Arts Council transferred its grant and touring slots to English Music Theatre. Without funds Phoenix died and did not rise again.

Wood continued teaching for some years, both privately and at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where Johanna Peters, her former pupil, a member of Phoenix Opera and friend of many years standing, was Head of Opera.

Elizabeth Forbes

Anne Wood, contralto singer, teacher and opera administrator; born Crawley, Sussex 2 August 1907; died London 12 June 1998.

# Minoo Masani

MINOO MASANI was one of India's last surviving members of the Constituent Assembly that oversaw independence from the colonial government in 1947 and drew up the country's voluminous constitution three years later.

A fiery and – what has been rare in India for almost three decades – upright politician, Masani founded the principle-based Freedom Party, with socialist leanings, that emerged as the single largest parliamentary party in 1967. But he had the intellectual honesty and strength to realise that socialism would not work, and became one of India's rare public figures to advocate market reform policies in an atmosphere of protectionism and economic insularity.

Masani was also India's ambassador to Brazil for two years following independence, after which he headed the United Nations Commission on Discrimination and Mi-

norities. Twice elected an MP in 1957 and 1963, he fiercely opposed the prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's effete socialism that blindly duplicated the Soviet Union's command economy structure, for which India is paying a heavy price even today.

A fierce champion of the underprivileged, Masani was deeply concerned by the criminalisation of Indian politics and the low moral tone of public figures which he believed was due to the absence of a value-based education system. However he had great faith in India, which he believed rated high in innate intelligence but low in wisdom and practicality.

Masani felt his generation had horribly let down India's youth who, if given the right lead, would be able to exploit their potential. In *We Indians*, one of his many books, he wrote: “We of my generation have made such a mess of our country's

affairs that in my opinion we have no right to preach to young folk.”

Born in Bombay into the aristocratic Parsee household of Sir Rustum and Lady Masani in 1905, Masani graduated locally from Elphinstone College before going on to the London School of Economics and being called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in the early 1930s. On returning home he joined the Bombay Bar but was attracted to Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India movement against the British colonial government and was imprisoned for two years in 1932.

After his release he joined politics and was elected mayor of Bombay in 1943. Four years later he was elevated to the Constituent Assembly. Initially drawn to Communism and an admirer of the Soviet Union, Masani was quickly disillusioned with both after Stalin's pogroms and mass liquidation of millions of cultivators who opposed his policy

of collective farming. In 1959 he founded the Swatantra or Freedom Party, based on a liberal socialist platform, that emerged as the single largest party in the 1967 general election with 44 MPs.

His party was the only one that opposed the abolition of India's royalty in the late 1960s on the grounds that this was against the agreement the 500-odd kings and princes had entered into with the Indian government at independence. To Masani it simply amounted to the government reneging on its word.

As the Freedom Party ideologue, Masani ensured that his party did not indulge in unionism or take its political battles to the streets. But in 1971, when the centrist Congress party led by Indira Gandhi swept the polls, he accepted responsibility, quit as party president and left politics. “Masani's integrity was enough to disqualify him from being a suc-

cessful politician” said one of his colleagues.

In the Seventies Masani opposed the imposition of the Emergency by Indira Gandhi when civil rights were suspended and the press censored. And though appointed head of the Minorities Commission in 1978 by the People's Party coalition that defeated Gandhi's Congress, he resigned after a few months following differences over principles.

A charming but die-hard dissenter, Masani advocated euthanasia for the terminally ill and founded the Society for the Right to Die with Dignity. His books include *Our India* – which was prescribed as a school textbook even before independence – *Socialism Reconsidered*, *Too Much Politics*, *Too Little Citizenship* and a two-volume autobiography, *Bliss was it in that Dawn and Against the Tide*.

Kuldip Singh



Minoo Masani, politician and writer; born Bombay 20 November 1905; Mayor of Bombay 1943-44; Ambassador to Brazil 1948-49; Chairman, UN Commission on Discrimination and Minorities 1950-52; MP 1957-62, 1963-71; founder, Freedom Party 1959; General Secretary 1960-67; married (one son); died Bombay 27 May 1998.





Ray Premru with Sasha (son of Vladimir) Ashkenazy in London, 1984

Gerald Drucker

## Raymond Premru

YOU MIGHT not imagine that a bass trombonist would be a ubiquitous figure on the musical landscape. But Raymond Premru was: his consummate musicianship made him indispensable to London's music-making - classical, jazz, big band, pop - from his arrival in 1956 until he left for pastures greener yet in 1988. Premru didn't command respect (he wasn't that kind of guy); he just earned it naturally. There can't be many musicians who were equally at ease playing in the studio with the Beatles and writing large-scale symphonic works for some of the world's major orchestras.

Premru was born in upstate New York and studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester; trombone with Dale Clark and Emory Remington, composition with Gladys Leventon and Bernard Rogers. With his BMus behind him, he set sail for England, docking at Hull in 1956 on board a freight steamer from Baltimore. In London he studied with Peter Racine Fricker, with the intention of returning home after six months. But an audition for the position of bass trombone with the Philharmonia - the chief conductor of which was then Herbert von Karajan - proved too tempting, and Premru settled in.

His three decades in the Philharmonia coincided with London's lengthy heyday as the recording capital of classical music, when the Philharmonia sat atop a hugely accomplished roster of orchestras. He played under an extraordinary galaxy of conductors, including Karajan and Klemperer; Barbirolli and Boult in the early days and Muti, Giulini and Ashkenazy latterly.

Ray Premru's hundreds of recordings with the Philharmonia were the tip of the iceberg. He was a member of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble from 1964 until its dissolution (upon Jones's retirement from the concert platform) in 1987. He played in a number of jazz groups, among them Kenny Baker's Dozen. He founded, co-directed and composed for the Bobby Lamb/Ray Premru Big Band, a 22-piece jazz orchestra that, pioneeringly, added French horns and tuba to the standard ensemble. And more millions must have heard him playing on Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967) than on all the rest of his records put together.

Musicians sometimes complain that modern works are written without due regard for the practicalities of their instrument. No such complaint was ever

made about Premru's music, which is always perfectly crafted. A stream of commissions for "serious" pieces - from, *inter alia*, the Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Philharmonia and London Symphony Orchestras, and the Camden, Cheltenham, Harrogate and York Festivals - kept him busy. His music is accessible (that is, tonal), his modernity derived from older devils like Stravinsky (under whom he played), Berg and Ives. There was also some healthy cross-pollination from his other musical lives: there is more than a hint of jazz and blues in many of his ostensibly classical compositions.

Hardly surprisingly, Premru wrote a good deal of chamber music for brass: his *Divertimento* for 10 instruments is given an occasional outing, and the sextet *Music from Horner Fell* achieved a kind of currency; there is also a Quartet for two trumpets, horn and tuba and a Concertino for trombone, flute, oboe, clarinet and bassoon. He wrote choral music and a number of scores for television and film.

Some of the status accorded his larger-scale symphonic works is indicated by a list of the conductors who premiered them, not least Ashkenazy, Maazel, Muti and Previn. His biggest

scores fall into two groups. There are three concertante works: a concerto for trumpet and strings from 1983, and *Music for Three Trombones, Tuba and Orchestra* written in the same year (Premru played in the first performance); a year later *Celebration*, for timpani and orchestra, appeared. The other group again contains three works, more ambitious yet: a Concerto for Orchestra, composed in 1976 and first played by the Philharmonia under Maazel in the Royal Festival Hall, and two symphonies, No 1 from 1981, and No 2, given a run of three first performances by Ashkenazy and the Cleveland Orchestra in November 1988.

By that time Premru had already returned to the United States, having taken up the position of Professor of Trombone at Oberlin College in Ohio. He still enjoyed playing and was occasionally seen in the Cleveland and New York Philharmonic Orchestras.

Martin Anderson

Raymond Eugene Premru, trombonist and composer: born Elmira, New York 6 June 1934; married 1958 Susan Talbot (two daughters; marriage dissolved); 1990 Janet Jacobs; died Cleveland, Ohio 8 May 1998.

## LITERARY NOTES

STEVE CLARK

## Travel writing, racism and rebranding Britain

IN 1980, Paul Fussell's study of travel-writing, *Abroad*, famously declared that genuine travel, as epitomised by the intolerant British literati of the 1920s and 1930s, had vanished, destroyed by the emergence of mass tourism and the reduced horizons of a world too thoroughly explored. However, arguments for the expiry of the form in the post-war period have proved notably ill founded. Its mixed and middlebrow nature, with its attendant aesthetic and political ambitions and potentially lucrative returns, have created a niche for a distinctive kind of post-modern literacy.



Fussell: promoting the knowing pastiche

Fussell's somewhat premature lament coincided with the forceful re-emergence of travel writing in the early 1980s in two disparate contexts: the best-selling *Granada* collections of travel writing and a series of conferences hosted by Essex University, which legitimised "post-colonial studies" as an academic discipline. A mere 40 miles separated the sites of these activities, Cambridge (*Granada*) and Colchester (the Essex conferences); their rationales, however, remain rather further apart.

For Bill Buford, the three *Granada* special issues he edited served to promote a new generation of highly literate writers, whose inhibitions were relaxed through working in a popular and hybrid genre. Their selling point was the combination of a subject matter of unfamiliar places and the array of highly sophisticated narrative devices. The subsequent hyperbole was for once partly deserved: at the very least, travel writers such as Bruce Chatwin and Jonathan Raban were shown to hold their own against any contemporary novelists.

For participants in the Essex conferences, travel writing exemplified cross-cultural encounter as an exercise of power. Its history was one of neo-colonialism; exploration generally preceded military occupation. From a contemporary perspective, this might render the genre culpable; yet it is this thesis, or variants upon it, that has injected new life into academic study of travel writing, even in its most racist and imperialist guises. Because of post-colonial scholarship, travel writing has become interesting again but usually as a kind of love that dare not speak its name.

The gap between the two viewpoints

might seem unbridgeable. Commercial entrepreneurship celebrates the pleasure and profit to be derived from a knowing pastiche of traditional travelogue; academic hindsight condemns the historical complicity of the form, with a relentless censoriousness often couched in the unappealing jargon of political correctness.

A parallel could be drawn with the broader post-imperial project of rebranding Britain, which employs a self-conscious superficiality as a means of disengagement from a definition of national identity, seen as both onerous and unworkable. For a post-modern aesthetic, the very absence of content is liberating; hence the appeal of Cool Britannia lies specifically in its blatancy as pure image, a marketing ploy devoid of the guilt or responsibility attached to any specific communal history.

British travel writing of the last 20 years shares this endemic belatedness, with its continued ironic allusions to a heroic past. These, however, indicate not disdainful severance but continued indebtedness and aspiration. Even the genre's characteristic strategies, such as phantom quests and pervasive self-mockery, cannot wholly disguise a basic affiliation.

One might conclude that to attempt to repress a past is merely to confirm one's dependence on it; or that, even in Blairite Britain, aspects of one's heritage might be retrieved rather discarded wholesale out of a sense of embarrassed inferiority.

*Travel Writing and Empire: post-colonial theory in transit* by Steve Clark is published by Zed Books at £4.95

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

ARMYTAG: Harry (Tim), Emeritus Professor of Education, University of Sheffield. "This is the way the world ends." The funeral will be private. A memorial service will be arranged later. Donations for the Alzheimer's Disease Society or University of Sheffield Harry Armytage Memorial Fund may be sent to Wood Funeral Service, 843 Eccleall Road, Sheffield S11 8PE.

HICKS: Harrison Robert Auckland, gent, at home, on Sunday 14 June 1998, aged 62 months. Precious baby son of Stewart and Louise. Would all friends please meet at West Road Crematorium, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Friday 19 June 1998, at 2pm. Donations to North of England Children's Cancer Research may be sent in lieu of flowers (c/o Ward 24, Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle NE4 6BE).

KESTELMAN: Morris Kestelman RA, died suddenly and peacefully in hospital on 15 June. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium, West London, on Friday 19 June, at 11.30am. Flowers and enquiries to Leverton & Sons, 181 Beverstock Hill, London NW3 4QS, telephone 0171-596 4221.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Royal College of Anaesthetists, attends a Diplomates' Ceremony at the Logan Hall, Institute of Education, London WC1; and attends a Starche Endowment Fund (UO) 'Ain High Appeal' reception at Shell International, London SE1. The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Royal Society, attends a "New Frontiers in Science" soirée at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; No 7 Company Coldstream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. Band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Donald Anderson MP 59; Lord Barber of Tewkesbury, environment consultant, 80; Mr Simon Bowes Lyon, Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, 66; Sir Michael Caine, former chairman, Booker plc, 71; Mr Nicholas Cook, cricketer, 42; Sir William Dale, legal consultant, 92; Sir Edward Downes, conductor, 74; Sir Patrick Duffy, former MP 78; Mrs Laura Duncan, Sheriff of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, 51; Sir Patrick Fairweather, former ambassador to Italy and Albania, 62; Sir Stanley Grinstead, former chairman, Reed International, 74; Mr Derek Ibbotson, athlete, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Le Cheeminant, former Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, 78; Mr Ken Livingston MP 53; Mr Kenneth Loach, television and film director, 62; Mr Hugh MacMahon, MEP, 60; Mr Barry Manilow, singer and composer, 53; Sir Peter Michael, chairman, Classic FM, 60; Miss Estelle Morris MP 46; Mr William Sinton, ambassador to Panama, 52; Lt-Col Aidan Sprot, farmer and former Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale, 79; Mr Brian Statham, cricketer, 68; Captain Roderick Stirling of Fairburn, Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh, 66; Sir Maldwyn Thomas, former president, Welsh Liberal Party, 80; Professor Sir Alan Walters, political economist, 72.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Edward I, King, 1239; Pedro Calderón de la Barca, playwright, 1600; Jan van Mieris, painter, 1660; Charles XII, King of Sweden, 1682; John Wesley, evangelist, 1703; William Parsons, third Earl of Rosse, astronomer, 1800; Hermann Goldschmidt, painter and astronomer, 1802; Ernst Gotthold Benjamin Pfundt,

percussion player and pianist, 1806; Erik Arnold Thaulow Wergeland, poet, 1808; Ferdinand Freilgrath, poet, 1810; Charles-François Gounod, composer, 1818; Alfred James Hopkins, piano maker, 1836; Sir William Crookes, physicist, 1832; Henry Hertzberg Lawson (Larsen), writer and poet, 1867; Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky, composer, 1882; Martin Bormann, Nazi leader, 1900; Don Gillis, composer, 1912; Dean Martin (Dino Paul Crocetti), singer and actor, 1917; Deaths: Giacomo Torelli, theatrical designer, 1678; John III Sobieski, King of Poland, 1696; Joseph Addison, essayist, 1719; Jean Andran, artist and engraver, 1756; Prosper-Jolyot de Crébillon, playwright, 1762; Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon, Methodist reformer, 1791; Lord William Bessington, governor-general of India, 1839; Richard Harris Barham, poet and author of *The Ingoldsby Legends*, 1845; William Hart, landscape and cattle painter, 1894; Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones, painter, 1898; Johan Siegwald Dahl, painter, 1902; Arthur Christopher Benson, scholar and writer, 1926; Dorothy Miller Richardson, novelist, 1957; John Cowper Powys, novelist and poet, 1963. On this day: Francis Drake proclaimed English sovereignty over New Albion (now California), 1578; Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island, was surrendered to the British by the French, 1745; the Battle of Bunker Hill, beginning the American War of Independence, was fought, 1775; the Third Estate (tiers état) or Commons, formed themselves into the French National Assembly, 1789; the Opera House, London, burned down, 1789; the Battle of Trebbia River (Wars of the French Revolution) started, 1799; Maori uprisings against the British began in New Zealand, 1843;

in the United States, 300 people were killed after fire destroyed the steamer *Griffith* on Lake Erie, 1850; the Great Eastern left the Needles, Isle of Wight, on her first transatlantic voyage, 1860; the first military port in Germany, Wilhelmshaven, was officially inaugurated, 1869; the Roumellian railway opened, 1873; the river steamboat service on the Thames started, 1905; Portuguese troops went into action for the first time on the Western Front, 1917; Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union, 1940; the British troopship *Lancastria* was bombed and sunk off St Nazaire, with the loss of 2,500 lives, 1940; the British Expeditionary Force from France was finally evacuated, 1940; Iceland was proclaimed an independent republic, 1944; in East Berlin, a rising took place against the Communist government, 1989; the May Fair Theatre opened in London, 1963; China reported that she had exploded a hydrogen bomb, 1967; General Leopoldo Galtieri was ousted as president of Argentina, 1982; the South African Parliament repealed a law, by which apartheid was ended, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Adolph, St Antidius, St Avitus or Avy of Perche, St Bessarion, Saints Botolph and Adolph, St Emily de Vialar, St Gregory Barbarigo, St Hervé or Hervues of Brittany, St Hypatius, St Molling, St Nectan, Saints Nicander and Marcian and St Teresa of Portugal.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Clare Ford-Wille, "Masters of Light (II): the Mannerists Bloemart and Wtewael", 1pm; Christopher Brown, "A Beaker full of the Warm South: Dutch Painters in Italy", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert

Museum: Caroline Blackman, "18th-century Mer's Dress", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Edwin Aitken, "Barnett Newman: mysticism and spirituality in Abstraction", 1pm. British Museum: Della Pemberton, "Symbols in Buddhist art", 11.30am. Wallace Collection, London W1: Christie Phillips, "Rococo Art in Gallery Four", 1pm. London School of Economics: William Julius Wilson, "When Work Disappears: race and urban poverty in the global economy", 5.30pm.

#### JOHN NABARRO

A celebration for the life and work of Sir John Nabarro KB FRCP will be held in the Library of the Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1, on Monday 22 June 1998 at 4pm. Further information may be obtained from the College Secretary.

#### DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a dinner discussion held yesterday evening at Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire. Professor Hardley, Vice-Chancellor, was the host. Lord Craig of Radley, Lord Perry of Walton and Sir Andrew Huxley also attended.

#### ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

The Royal Gold Medal for Architecture was presented to Oscar Niemeyer in a ceremony held yesterday at the RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1.

## Disciplinary committee is not a court

THE PROFESSIONAL Conduct Committee of the General Medical Council was not a court within the meaning of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the General Medical Council (GMC) from an order dismissing its applications for an injunction against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and for a declaration that its Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) was a court within the meaning of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The injunction was sought to postpone the transmission on BBC television's current affairs programme *Panorama* of a film expected to contain controversial interviews and comment. The film related to disciplinary proceedings in which the PCC was hearing complaints against three doctors.

One was the former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust, and the other two were surgeons working at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in the field of paediatric cardiac surgery. The complaints against the doctors were based on what were said to be exceptionally poor rates of mortality and morbidity (including brain damage) among babies and young children undergoing cardiac surgery at the hospital.

Roger Henderson QC and Rosalind Foster (Field Fisher Waterhouse) for the GMC; Manuel Barca (Legal Department, BBC) for the BBC.

Lord Justice Robert Walker said that the PCC was the main disciplinary tribunal of

### WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

17 JUNE 1998

General Medical Council v British Broadcasting Corporation  
*Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Robert Walker) 10 June 1998*

the GMC. It had power under section 33 of the Medical Act 1983 to erase the registration of a fully registered medical practitioner, or to suspend a practitioner's registration, or to make registration subject to conditions. Those powers might only be exercised if the practitioner had been convicted of a criminal offence, or was judged by the PCC to have been guilty of serious professional misconduct. The three doctors concerned in the present case were charged with serious professional misconduct.

Two main issues had arisen before the judge and on the appeal: whether the proceedings before the PCC were legal proceedings before a court for the purposes of the law as to criminal contempt of court; and, if so, whether transmission of the programme at the present time would create "a substantial risk that the course of justice in the proceedings in question will be seriously impeded or prejudiced" within

section 2(2) of the 1981 Act so as to make injunctive relief appropriate.

A third issue also arisen: whether the High Court had an inherent jurisdiction, apart from its jurisdiction to prevent or punish contempt of court, to restrain activities which threatened to impede or prejudice the proper functioning of a tribunal which was not a court of law, but which performed functions of a judicial character, and the proper functioning of which was a matter of public interest.

With regard to the first issue, which it was correct that the PCC was exercising a sort of judicial power, it was not the judicial power of the state. The PCC was a statutory committee of a professional body specially incorporated by statute. It exercised a recognisably judicial function, in the public interest, in accordance with detailed procedural rules, which had close similarities to those followed in courts of law. Nevertheless, it was not part of the judicial system of the state, but was exercising the self-regulatory power and duty of the medical profession to monitor and maintain standards of professional conduct.

With regard to the second issue, public perceptions of the matter would no doubt have some influence on the trust's deliberations, but that was a very different matter from there being a substantial risk of serious prejudice to the proceedings before the PCC.

It would only have been necessary to consider the third issue in a clear case of grave interference, which the present case was not.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

### WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
*Prevaricate v.b.*

*prevaricari*, to walk with legs bent) is to avoid speaking the truth, or deliberately to act misleadingly. *Procrastinate* is to put off.

The forces of linguistic purity may be losing this argument, however. The language needs a word that combines delaying tactics with weaselly intent, and *prevaricate* has been conscripted to fill the gap. It is certainly more often used wrongly than correctly these days, even by prime ministers.



# They crack jokes, then they crack up

Funny man Dudley Moore is miserable, 'sick of life and waiting to die'. What is it about making people laugh that makes comedians so unhappy?

By Roger Dobson

WE LEARNED this week that top comedian Dudley Moore is depressed, debilitated by strokes and waiting to die. He has reportedly told friends that he has nothing left to live for.

For those brought up on "Pete and Dud" sketches, it's hard to imagine the small one in the flat cap and scarf saying anything as depressingly banal as: "I'm waiting to die." Not unless he was parodying BBC senior management.

He's not supposed to get serious and depressed like the rest of us. He's meant to joke at adversity, laugh in the face of death, and crack one-liners right up to the end, in the tradition of people like WC Fields, who managed to continue his jokes after death with the tombstone inscription: "On the whole I'd rather be in Philadelphia."

Comedians have a propensity to depression. In fact, so many suffer from it that it came with spots and a cough it would be classed as an occupational disease. If you start compiling a list of funny men who have suffered from intolerable black moods, you end up with a list of the best comics - Tony Hancock, Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Peter Cook, Woody Allen, Stephen Fry, Paul Merton, Kenneth Williams, Mike Yarwood, Sean Hughes and Charlie Chaplin.

Tony Slattery had a nervous breakdown which forced him to stop working for two years. "It was like the black dog got you, gave you a little shake, but then let you go. But his wasn't like that. The black dog of me in its jaws and just hung on for two years," he told *The Independent's* Deborah Ross.

One of Peter Cook's friends has said: "Peter went through hell to make us all laugh. He'd drink, take pills, rant and rage, then collapse in floods of tears." Another friend said: Peter was a hilarious man whose wild, irreverent humour paved the way for shows like *Monty Python*, *ave I Got News for You?* and *Not the Nine O'Clock News*. But there was a different side to him. In order to make us all laugh, he went through hell at home.

Dudley Moore, like his former partner in comedy Peter Cook, took drugs and alcohol, and has suffered from a series of strokes. His

ex-wife says he spends an enormous amount of money on narcotics.

Making people laugh has a high price. Charlie Chaplin wrote that it took "sheer perseverance to the point of madness". Chaplin's humour was a technique for imposing order on an unhappy and chaotic life. It was said his jokes were forged in anger and self-pity. Like Peter Cook, Chaplin had a split personality. Director Robert Florey said: "One moment he was the amiable Charlie: the cajoler and charmer who wants to please, amuse and seduce. The next he was Mr Chaplin, the tyrannical, wounding, authoritarian, mean, despotic man imbued with himself."

Ironically, comedians often do not value their ability to make people laugh and they often crave approval for a more serious side. Hancock wanted to play Shakespeare. Kenneth Williams wanted to stop messing about and do serious acting too. Dudley Moore, too, has his piano playing, but however good a musician he is, he will always be remembered for his jokes.

Paul Merton, who was once diagnosed as suffering from clinical depression, has described how he collected jokes to tell at his birthday parties: "I remember at the age of eight making all these children laugh at my birthday party. And then thinking: I've got to do it again when I am nine. I've got to do it when I'm 10. You see, I felt the pressure even then," he says.

According to Professor Cary Cooper of Manchester University, it is the desire to feel wanted that is the driving force behind comedians.

"They are people who have a strong need to be liked, which comes from something negative in their childhood which has given them a poor self image," he says. The way they compensate for that is by making others laugh. It makes them feel good about who they are," he says.

"Once the crowd, the audience who like them are gone, comedians are back with themselves. It is when they stop performing that it hits them. If you are constantly on show, constantly entertaining, constantly making people laugh, you are not dealing with something that may be

troubling you. While you are cracking jokes, you may be cracking up."

One of the problems for comedians is, that unlike actors, they cannot hide behind the parts they play. They are expected to be funny 24 hours a day.

When Stephen Fry went walkabout after he abandoned the West End play *Cell Mates*, he said he felt a need to be among strangers.

"I had always been cynical about the clown with the tear; that all funny people are melancholy. I used to take pride in thinking one could snap out of it, that we weren't all Tony Hancock. Laughter can help other people, but not the laughter-give."

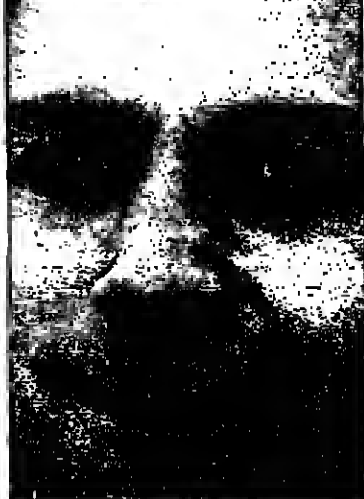
Dr Raj Persaud, a consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley hospital in

south London, says that the young comedian is often drawn to the job because of the reaction they get.

"One of the theories is that if you look into the background of comedians, you can see that from an early age they found that being funny was useful and it was often because they were outsiders of some kind. It is one way to integrate into a group."

"The problem for the comedian is that if you find that being funny has been your defence mechanism, you are always going to rely on it so there is a terrible pressure to be funny even when you are not on stage. The sad thing is that it may be comedians never learn that they don't have to be funny to be acceptable to other people."

Earlier last week I had lunch with some winemakers in a vineyard near Montpellier in the south of France. The wines were superb, and the food on the buffet in the



Whether they are 'waiting to die', feel obliged to be funny 24 hours a day, or simply want to be taken seriously, comedians have more reason than most to be miserable. Above: Kenneth Williams. Below from left: Dudley Moore, Paul Merton and Sean Hughes

MSI, All Action, MSI, UPP

## The garden Godzilla had insinuated itself into my dinner

### THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

2. PEPPERS  
BY PAUL LEVY,  
FOOD CRITIC



YOU MUST have noticed. They're everywhere, they're nasty and they spoil your lunch or dinner. They cause scenes of gratuitous violence on your plate: strips or dice of nail-varnish scarlet, lurid orange, Day-glo yellow, neon green or purple so dark it's almost black. No savoury dish can be served this summer unless it is garnished with - or even incorporates - these rebarbative bullies, these culinary thugs. Whether they're called sweet peppers, bell peppers, pimientos or capsicums, no chef, airline caterer or even sandwich-maker can leave them alone.

I exempt chillies from these strictures. Chillies add heat and interest to food. Besides, they have different flavours, ranging from biting acid to smoky. Peppers have only one flavour: monotonous, acid and echoing hours after

you've eaten them. Somebody must like the taste of these sinister denizens of the vegetable kingdom (they're members of the nightshade family, don't forget), for you can't avoid them.

Recently, at the theatre to see Cheek by Jowl's glorious production of *Much Ado about Nothing*, we thought we'd have a sandwich with our pre-performance drinks. The choice was between ciabatta with a noisette filling - certain to include peppers - and sliced malted grain bread containing "roast vegetables with soft cheese, pesto and watercress". No prize for guessing which "vegetable" overpowered all the others, beating into submission even an imaginative slice of grilled aubergine.

Supper later at one of my favourite post-theatre restaurants, Bank in the Aldwych. Not very

hungry after my half-sandwich, I ordered "dressed crab with avocado and pepper dressing". I checked with the waiter, in the hope that the pepper in question was black. Bad luck. There was "some red pepper" in the mayonnaise dressing, but he'd bring it on the side so I wasn't forced to eat it. Not replaced in its shell as I had expected, the crab appeared as a wee, truncated creamy white cylinder, flecked with infinitesimally small particles of Chinese red. The Godzilla of the kitchen garden had insinuated itself into the very fabric of my dinner.

Earlier last week I had lunch with some winemakers in a vineyard near Montpellier in the south of France. The wines were superb, and the food on the buffet in the

quiches, terrines were achieved at the expense of comestibility by employing fruit-gum-coloured slivers and stapes of the foe in virtually every dish of the generous spread. I did not despair of lunch, as I could see the main course was a protein-heavy barbecue, carnivorously pepper-free, with juicy, rare steak, lamb cutlets and meaty sausages. I was wrong to hope. The grilled chicken leg I cut into rested on, and had been infected by the flavour of, its bed of ratatouille, whose main ingredient was the vegetable mugger.

Who will rid us of these pestilential peppers? We need a foodie hero. Elizabeth David knew their dangers, and warned that they were perilous if not peeled. However, they posed little threat to her cooking or to civilisation when she published her first book, *Mediterranean Food*, in 1950, for rationing

was still in force. Lemons were uncommon, aubergines, courgettes and peppers positively rare. And the peppers Mrs David knew were knobbly, sun-ripened Spanish, Italian and French specimens, "grown for flavour" (as the supermarkets now have the cheek to say of their more expensive tomatoes).

For a brief moment in the summer, fruit and vegetable wholesalers can sometimes buy a few boxes of Mediterranean or north African peppers, but our year-around supplies come from the dastardly Dutch and we all know what they grow vegetables for. They grow them for long-keeping, to appear blemish-free and completely regular in shape, and to be as nearly as possible all the same weight. They have managed to breed out of their peppers any

taste of the original flavour of the species *Capsicum annuum*, leaving behind only whatever it is that makes human beings burp all night after they've consumed the merest molecule.

What's needed is a consumer rebellion. We do not need to eat peppers with every meal just because they are there. We must make it clear to professional cooks that this vegetable is not even to be considered edible in its raw form; cooked, it can be eaten in very small quantities, provided that every bit of its leathery skin has been removed. It is permissible (though naff) to use it for its colour, as a garnish not intended to be eaten. But no person of sensitivity should be expected to eat peppers more often than he or she would foie gras or truffles. We cannot make peppers extinct, but at least let's make them scarce.



# You ask the questions

(such as: You are known for your uncompromising views on sex. So, Ann Widdecombe, what would you do if you had a gay son?)

**KNOWN FOR** her uncompromising views on sex, lone parents and Michael Howard, Shadow Health Secretary Ann Widdecombe, 50, has already told William Hague that she would never do her job in government because she couldn't bring herself to license abortions. A self-confessed virgin and enemy of all things alternative, she is steadfast in her opinion that homosexuals and single parents do not have "equal validity" with two-parent heterosexual families.

**You have very certain views – both political and moral – is there anything that presents you with a dilemma?**

**Victor Thompson, Amsterdam**  
Yes, for example Sunday trading. I do not use big supermarkets on a Sunday but I voted in favour of relaxing the law because I could see no viable alternative.

**Have you ever been head-over-heels, sick-to-the-stomach in love?**  
**Angela Gardiner, London NW1**  
Yes.

**Recently on TV you compared yourself to Thatcher: "Maggie could step off a train at 5am, after a long journey, looking like she'd just stepped out of a beauty salon... I step out of a beauty salon looking like I've just stepped off a train at 5am." You also take delight in describing Tony's new women MPs as "Blair's Babes". That said, would it be fair to label you as "Hague's Hag"?**  
**Dave Humphreys, Rugby**  
If this question is representative of the level of intelligence of *Independent* readers, the paper had better become a tabloid of the lesser sort.

**As someone known to be keen on nail polish, which brand do you recommend – and which colour?**  
**Jenny Harris, Norwich**  
As this is the only beauty advice I am ever likely to be asked to give, I am going to make the most of it. I use Jessica or L'Oréal but colour is a matter of personal preference. I like Winter Berries and Powerful Peach. I always use a base coat to avoid discolouring the nails and I use an oily drying agent. I avoid the use of any varnish at all for four weeks continuously once a year and condition every day during that time.

**If you had a son who at the age of 16 told you he was gay, how would you react?**  
**Kevin Clore, Abingdon**  
With considerable concern.

**Do you accept that for most people, their sexuality is not a choice and do you have any sympathy**



with gay people whose lives are affected by homophobic prejudice in whatever form it may take?  
**Andrew Winton, Salford**  
I sympathise with anybody who is a victim of unreasoning prejudice but I also believe that not every view expressed in favour of traditional morality is the result of prejudice and most certainly not of homophobia. Homophobia would suggest active persecution or rejection.

**a) Will you continue to vote against gay rights, and if so, what do you suggest a young gay man should do? Live a life of loneliness, mislead a heterosexual partner, seek help for a "mental illness" or deny very strong and profound desires, possibly leading to suicidal levels of depression?**  
**b) Would a genetic link to homosexuality change your opinions on gay rights?**  
**Marcos Scriben, Imperial College, London**

**a) I am not against homosexual "rights". I merely believe the age of consent should not be lowered and that society should keep the traditional family as its model for raising children. I would need a lot of convincing that self-restraint either by heterosexuals or homosexuals must lead to "suicidal levels of depression".**  
**b) No.**

**Since you express such strong views about homosexuality, would you tell us how many homosexuals you know and whether you sought information on the subject from any gay organisation? Surely as a Christian you make every effort to arrive at an understanding before denouncing gays.**  
**Brian Roberts, Frome**  
Christian teaching promotes the traditional family. I have not, in fact, denounced homosexuals and many of these questions appear to be based on the premise that I have. What I have denounced is lowering

the age of consent. As to how many homosexuals I know, I am not in the habit of quizzing my friends on their sexual preferences. I assume that a large circle of friends is likely to include both heterosexuals and homosexuals.

**How do you feel about being in the same shadow cabinet as Michael Howard?**  
**David Howe, London**  
Pleased to be in a team of effective fighters.

**Can you describe your first meeting with Michael Howard after your "something of the night" comments?**  
**Arabella Beveridge, London W8**  
We gave each other the time of day in a television studio.

**Given that some form of rationing in health-care provision is both necessary and desirable, surely putting so much emphasis on**

crude waiting list reduction is wrong? Would you agree that a better definition of "need" (in relation to quality of life) should be attempted?

**Peter Shapland, St Albans**  
I agree that the emphasis on waiting lists, rather than waiting times, is misplaced, but the Labour government has made list reduction a central pledge.  
**How do you relax away from the political arena?**  
**Paul Johnson, Walton-on-Thames**  
Hill walking in Scotland, swimming in summer, reading whenever.

**a) Which disadvantaged group in society (if any) are you most sympathetic towards?**  
**b) Do you think that, as a psychological phenomenon, bigotry is innate or learned?**  
**Alison Cottell**

**a) I feel strongly on behalf of the unborn child and the severely disabled. b) First of all, you must define bigotry. One man's bigotry is another man's passionate conviction. However, if you mean cruelty or oppression then they, like other forms of evil, may be either innate or acquired.**

## Next week: Mad Frankie Fraser

Retired gangster and ex-con Mad Frankie Fraser spent a total of 42 years in high-security prisons, led a riot at Parkhurst and has been certified insane three times. In 1994 he reinvented himself as an author, published his memoirs,

**Mad Frank**, and is now a darling of the literary circuit. Please send any questions you would like to put to Mr Fraser by post to Your Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL by fax on 0171 293 2132 or e-mail to [yourquestions@independent.co.uk](mailto:yourquestions@independent.co.uk) by lunchtime on Friday 15 June.



Students at an Oxford college are protesting at the loss of their principal. By Glenda Cooper

## A matter of one's principals

IT IS a very Oxford intrigue. A popular outsider comes into a very traditional college. He makes time to speak to students, invites them to drinks parties and says he wants to include them more in the running of the college. Some dons dislike it and form a cabal against him. In the ensuing drama, the outsider is forced out and the students revolt.

Last week, Sir Stephen Tumbin, the former chief inspector of prisons and thorn in the side of the previous government, announced he was quitting as principal of St Edmund Hall. His departure is arranged with a financial settlement believed to be worth six figures. The vice-principal of the college has denied any rift between Sir Stephen and individual dons.

But that is far from the end of the matter. The students passed a vote of no-confidence in the senior common room over their role in Sir Stephen's departure. On Friday, college students have arranged to hold a sit-in on the front quad of the college.

"It's unbelievable," says Cathy Cooper, former president of the Junior Common Room. "We had 125 people turn up for the meeting on Sunday when usually we would expect about 30. People were even having to vote through the windows as not everyone could fit in the JCR. I think the dons are quite scared of the whole thing."

For this is not a radical college – nothing like the People's Republic of Wadham or the ferocious of Balliol. Teddy Hall, as it is affectionately known in Oxford, is a small college, distinguished for its sport-



St Edmund Hall where the students have passed a vote of no confidence in the senior common room

ing prowess rather than its academic achievement. One of its most famous alumni, the satirist John Wells, described his alma mater as "famously Philistine", full of rugby players and oarsmen, "a kind of aristocracy of beef".

Ms Cooper comments: "The college sometimes suffers from a bit of an inferiority complex because we don't have 600 beautiful buildings and we're not top of the Norrington Table." Even its current JCR president, John Houghton, admits that the college's reputation is "apathetic" and the Alternative Prospec-

tus brought out by the university students union OUSU notes that in the past it was known for its "aggressively male atmosphere" and "rowdy, packed and lively bar". Rowing was something you did in a boat.

But not now. In Eighth Week – the last week in the Oxford year, where for a few unlucky finalists exams are still going on, but for most the pressure is off, and the opportunities for plotting and scheming are abundant. Teddy Hall has decided it is time to fight back. And boy, are the students enjoying it.

So small is the college that a hundred students sitting on the front quad will be unmissable, particularly by the dons on their way to High Table. The college's buildings are a mixture of the picturesque – the library was formerly a 12th century church and is liked "if only because you have to walk across a graveyard to get to it" – and 1960s buildings described as the "most charmless in Oxford". But most of all it is small, with plenty of nooks and crannies for people to meet and plot.

This is exactly what the students are complaining about: the secretiveness of the SCR. They feel Sir Stephen, as a popular principal, had tried to work together with JCR and SCR. "I think Sir Stephen approached his job as if he were a judge," says Mr Houghton. "He listened to the SCR, the MCR and the JCR and tried to listen to all points of view."

One of his more popular moves – apart from the increased numbers of drinks parties – was to give the students their "collections" (Oxford's word for end of term reports) without their tutors being present, in the hope that students would be able to talk more freely about problems. The dons did not like this and overturned his decision.

Sir Stephen is refusing to comment other than to release the following statement: "Differences in opinion have emerged over the interpretation of the role of principal which have proved impossible to reconcile." His personal assistant added: "He does not feel it would be terribly dignified to comment further. But it takes no great leap of the

imagination to see how he feels.

"I don't think they liked him because he wasn't an academic," says Geoff Payne. "They didn't like the idea of an outsider, someone who hadn't risen through the ranks. They've got rid of him on spurious grounds, I think," he adds. "They say that he didn't stay throughout meetings or that he said that the meetings were dull. But if that is the case, why are they paying him such a lot of compensation?"

The students' rebellion may be not as unlikely as is imagined. For it is not the first time the principal has been the focus of college identity. St Edmund Hall dates back to the 13th century and was acquired, but not absorbed, by Queen's College in 1557. Most of the other medieval halls became extinct in the late 19th century. St Edmund Hall was threatened with being swallowed up by Queen's College, but the Principal in Office, Dr Edward Moore, resigned for 49 years, and saved his college by refusing to allow Queen's to take over.

With luck, the spirit of Dr Moore will be with the students this week. They know their action will not reinstate Sir Stephen, but hope that dons will be forced to listen to their point of view and realise how strong college feeling is. It is a radical action for this least radical of colleges.

However, Teddy Hall traditionalism wins through. Its members will rebel – but only so far. "We are doing the sit-in on Friday lunchtime," says Ms Cooper. "But there are collections on Friday afternoon and we'll still be going to those."

Don't burn the barricades yet.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HARD KNOCKS



John Tusa and Dr Gillian Evans, both in conflict



**JOHN TUSA**  
Former head of BBC World Service and now chief at the Barbican Centre in London. Tusa walked out after only nine months as president of Wolfson College in Cambridge. "I realised I had better things to do," he said. "The attitude of too many of the council to resolving matters was dilatory, hesitant, and more concerned to address the minutiae of procedure than the urgent matters of principle involved." Fellows had criticised him for spending too little time at the university. A college statement said: "Mr Tusa's decision reflects a difference in culture and expectations between his own experience and that of his college."

**COLIN MCCABE**  
Famous victim of a Cambridge University feud, caught in the English faculty's crossfire between British positivists and pro-continental semioticians. He was denied upgrading to a tenured position and the ensuing, furious debate represented a divide between left/right, traditionalist/progressive, theoretical/practical.

**DR GILLIAN EVANS**  
The medieval theologian is waging a one-woman battle against Cambridge to secure promotion for herself and other women dons. Evans has already won leave in the High Court for a judicial review of the university's procedures for promotion. She has also applied to take Cambridge to tribunal for victimisation. Recently, she suffered verbal attacks in a Senate House debate, including slurs from two members of the Regent House, which ratifies promotion decisions. "The general board, which has to make these decisions, hates me," she says.

**AND LET'S** not forget brave Oxford theologian, WG Ward. In the 1890s, he gave the Bampton lectures and the university was so outraged it accused him of heresy. Ward was a Catholic-learning theologian and later became a Catholic. The Bampton lecturer was bidden to defend the orthodox doctrines of Anglicanism that held sway at the time. The C of E put him on trial for heresy.

LUCY WARD



# A passion for paint through the sins of the flesh

Power, passion  
and pride:  
Paula Rego  
draws on the  
human condition.  
Interview by  
Andrew Lambirth

**P**aula Rego has become known and celebrated for painting the woman's view. Her disturbing, slightly surreal tableaux are imbued with the mystery of relationships, with sexuality and passion. She is utterly charming to meet, but also slightly disconcerting. While visiting her Kentish Town studio, I ask her if she likes the company of other painters. "I don't see a lot of artists," she replies. "But I can smell them." If this suggests a wild animal delicately scenting the air before deciding to sally forth, then it captures something of Rego. It also indicates the humour which penetrates her conversation, sometimes wickedly, and which animates her paintings.

Born 63 years ago in Portugal, but resident in England, Rego has worked in this studio, an old, top-lit canvas-stretching workshop, for four years now, and is very happy. After the experience of her previous studio in Islington, which she says was haunted by bad spirits, anything would come as a relief, but the large double studio affords room for a separate drawing area as well as a painting section and a self-contained office. Here, Rego has been working on 16 paintings, to be shown at Dulwich Picture Gallery this summer. They are costume dramas, inspired in part by Dulwich's permanent collection - in particular *Two Peasant Boys* by Murillo and *The Locksmith* after Ribera - but specifically by a famous 19th-century Portuguese novel, *The Sins of the Fathers*, by Eça de Queiroz, translated and published by the Carcanet Press.

"It's a book that was forbidden for many years because it was anti-clerical," she says. "It is anti-clerical, but mainly it's a love story between a priest and a girl, which is what I was interested in. It was a book much admired by my father. He loved this writer and read him to me when I was young. Not from this book, because it wasn't quite proper for a young girl, but other things. A sardonic writer, the very spirit of Por-



Paula Rego's art is sensual, erotic and elegant, with a feel for the fickleness of human relationships

Rui Xavier

tugal even now - he has great insights into how people are, and how they relate."

I ask her whether it is useful to have a separate narrative to inspire her. "I make my own story up afterwards. There is the hook story and my story." She gestures to her painting *The Company of Women*, in which a crop-haired man pretending to be a boy stares straight out at the viewer. The boy is supposed to be the hero, or anti-hero, of the book. "His mother dies and he's brought up in a very wealthy house, but he only feels comfortable in the kitchen with the maids. They dress him up in their clothes when he is nine, and they fool around with him and he learns to become deceitful. He learns how to survive in the world. And this boy is put into the seminary to become a priest. He has no vocation, but he doesn't have a say in the matter. He

cares but he doesn't have a will, he doesn't dare say so - he's passive. The story is about him and the girl he meets and falls in love with. He is rather deceitful and selfish and the girl is foolish, and they have this love affair." Rego chuckles softly at the human comedy. "She loves him because he is a priest and has supernatural power - power to save her and power to make love to her. Can you imagine that in a man? So it all gets very confusing. The poor girl gives up her own identity to this romance, and her soul, no doubt."

Are her paintings literal transcriptions of scenes in the book?

"This one is. He's flushing and comfortable leaning against them. It's erotic, don't you think? Erotic and sensual, and the colour is rather cloying, rather sweet, as it should be, the subject matter demands it." On the left of the picture is a gorgeous,

almost voluptuous, lilac-mauve dress that one of the maids is sewing. This is Rego reveling in textures - in the silks and lace that swish through the pages of the novel.

In a painting called *The Cell*, the priest is lying on a bed garbed only in pyjama trousers, with a little figure of the Virgin Mary underneath. It's a camp bed, a Put-u-Up. "It's all I had! I wish I had another bed, but the pictures have to be done with what's in the studio." She can't invent. "No, it has to be literal. I don't make anything up." People come to pose and Rego draws them in position. A dummy stands in for figures when they're not there.

Are these paintings or drawings? Something of each. They are all done in pastels on paper bonded on to aluminium - "very tough, you can wash down hits if you want to" - and pastel has the quality of

being both colour and line. As Rego says: "It's painting with sticks." There is a lot of drawing, virtuoso drawing, in evidence and, unlike other artists who use pastel, Rego is careful not to smudge it. She favours the crisp outline, but also builds up the forms in layers of colour. She works from a grey ground of acrylic primer, and starts painting the flesh in green. The red and pink are added later. Every layer gets fixed. She used to work on the floor but can't any more now that she works from life and not from her imagination. She has to look at the model, and constantly consult the reality in front of her. She makes a drawing first, squares it up and transfers it to the panel on the easel. Then she will carry on working from the model for hours on end to bring it all to life.

We talk of one painting, called *Mother*. "In Spanish churches there are figures of Christ in a skirt. It's not cross-dressing, it's like a robe. And with bare feet it makes him look vulnerable in a way that he wouldn't be if he were naked." The girl this time is portrayed by a black model. "It doesn't have to be the same model. It's not like a film - they can change." In another picture, the girl is depicted as altogether more corporeal: larger, heavier, probably discontented. She's shown looking out of a window. Rego comments: "From the waist up she's all dandy, from the waist down she's not so clean: rumpled and crumpled."

Rego is unapologetic about the different personae. As she says: "It's not like a strip cartoon; they're not characters with balloons coming out of their mouths. People have to work out their own story."

Paula Rego, Dulwich Picture Gallery (0181-693 8000) to 26 July

are figures of Christ in a skirt. It's not cross-dressing, it's like a robe. And with bare feet it makes him look vulnerable in a way that he wouldn't be if he were naked." The girl this time is portrayed by a black model. "It doesn't have to be the same model. It's not like a film - they can change." In another picture, the girl is depicted as altogether more corporeal: larger, heavier, probably discontented. She's shown looking out of a window. Rego comments: "From the waist up she's all dandy, from the waist down she's not so clean: rumpled and crumpled."

Rego is unapologetic about the different personae. As she says: "It's not like a strip cartoon; they're not characters with balloons coming out of their mouths. People have to work out their own story."

## Mutilation in Bach major

DANCE  
LET'S OP BACH  
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
LONDON

A DISLOCATED elbow usually confines a dancer to the wings, but for Alain Platel's Ballets C de la B, major trauma is no impediment to performance. Indeed, in his latest work, *Let's Op Bach*, it is a positive advantage. Gabriela Carrizo's plaster cast and the surgical support that surrounds Elnat Tuchman's torn ligaments are perfectly at home among the damaged individuals on stage. As the show goes on, far worse injuries will be revealed by the batty Bohemians gathered on Pol Heyvaert's seedy rooftop set.

It is as if we have stumbled on rehearsals for one of those New Age horror circuses, except that a timetable clash has forced them to share the space with a Baroque chamber orchestra and three singers (the sublime Steve Dugardin, Werner Van Mechelen and Greta De Reyghere). The juxtaposition of grungy absurdity and serious music is clearly something Platel finds irresistible. His *La Tristesse Complice*, seen in London last year, used Purcell; this time it's Bach. "One is not supposed to play around with Bach," says Platel in the programme notes, "but when they say 'Hands off', that's when my fingers really start itching."

It isn't pure dance by any means - even without the injuries, the cast of 10 have clearly not been selected for their technique alone. It's hardly a play - the text is mostly confined to polyglot rants about the Pope or the Middle East. And it isn't a circus. But it works. The key to its success is Platel's flair for picking performers who can bring vulnerable nutters to life in a series of heartbreaking and hilarious vignettes, and to create a dramatic progression that seems to exist independent of narrative. At 90 minutes, the show is too long, but Bach tides us over the longueurs.

The apparently random assembly of crazy people is cleverly directed. One minute the stage is in chaos: a man scrapes dogshit off his shoe, a bleeding dancer sets fire to his gloves while another depilates his girlfriend's legs with his teeth. Yet suddenly our attention will focus inexorably on one aspect of the mix. This ability to make us tune into the main event is not accomplished by stage lighting or clever sound levels; it's achieved by sheer force of personality. Suddenly your eyes are drawn to a woman unbuttoning her blouse to reveal the adhesive dressings of a breast reduction. A man nods approvingly. Later, he does a full striptease and we discover that his genitalia (if any) are obliterated by bloodstained bandages.

Tonight, Northern Stage, Newcastle Playhouse (0191-230 5151)

LOUISE LEVENE

## Double-gifted Dutchman

Hans Liberg is  
a fine musician  
and a very funny  
man - in Dutch.  
But will his  
humour travel?  
By John Crace

HANS LIBERG is a remarkable comedian. As well as his native Dutch, he can perform fluently in German, French and English. Unfortunately on the night I see him at the Diligentia theatre in The Hague, it's Dutch. So while 700 people are on their feet, giving him a standing ovation after a hectic two-hour show, I am still none the wiser as to exactly how funny he is.

Liberg styles himself a latter-day Victor Borge, and I had imagined that the music would do the talking for him. Which to some extent it does. Dressed in brilliant white oversized pyjamas, and with his closely cropped skull giving him a manic edge, he dashes between grand piano and harpsichord, rattling off snatches of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Mozart, Bach and Scriabin, while keeping up a non-stop running commentary. But while some of the humour is in the music itself, the rest goes straight over my head.

Not that that will worry Liberg too much. Though his only gigs over here have been



Hans Liberg, 'more of a sit-down' Bart van Leeuwen

at the Edinburgh Festival, in 1995 and 1996, he's been the top comedian in Holland for more than a decade, the Germans and the French adore him, he's done more TV than you can shake a stick at, he's received a special mention at the Golden Rose Festival in Montreux and last year he hit the jackpot by picking up the Emmy Award in the Popular Arts category.

This week Liberg appears at the Purcell Rooms, and for a man who is otherwise so effortlessly confident about all he does, he is endearingly neurotic about his first London dates. "Tell me a bit about the British

comedy scene," elides quickly into "How do you think I'll go down?" And it's hard to know how to answer the last question. Because Liberg's act doesn't fit into any particular stereotype.

Unlike Britain, where there are any number of venues where aspiring comics can cut their teeth in 10 minute slots, Holland has no stand-up tradition. There are now one or two small clubs in Amsterdam, but when Liberg started performing in the early Eighties it was a two-hour show at a 500-seater theatre, or nothing. So he went for the two-hour show. "In the beginning, I probably only had

half-an-hour of decent material," he jokes, "but I seemed to get away with it."

The material isn't a problem now, but the format may be. He's too wacky for a traditional Victor Borge audience, yet the comedy isn't conventional stand-up. Liberg is well aware of this. "I suppose I'm more of a sit-down," he says. "The music is central to my act; all the jokes stem from it. My piece on the unification of Europe began life as an exploration of the musical styles of composers of different nationalities."

Perhaps Liberg's greatest gift is to be able to bear the connections between classical themes and contemporary music. So the German national anthem, by Haydn, mutates seamlessly into "Hey Jude". "I don't think originality exists in music, so there's nothing to be ashamed of in sampling other people's work. You just shouldn't take all the credit for it."

Those who do try to claim originality are singled out for special attention. Andrew Lloyd Webber is a particular *bête noire*. "I've identified over 20 examples of themes he's stolen. He's very good at it, because he doesn't always go for the obvious, catchy tune that everyone knows. For instance, *Sunset Boulevard* is based on the second motif from one of Rachmaninov's piano concertos."

Liberg is a prodigiously talented musician. He took up the piano at six, learned guitar and percussion in his teens and took a PhD in musicology at Amsterdam University in

1978, when he was 24 years old. Teaching never really appealed and he initially earned a living hanging around clubs playing in jazz bands. Turning points come in many shapes and sizes, and Liberg's was amphibian. "I was playing Kermit the Frog in a children's musical," he says, somewhat embarrassed, "and my wife noticed how my eyes seemed to come alive when I was on stage. So I decided to make a career out of performances."

For a man who has cultivated such a bizarre stage persona, his life is almost worryingly normal - a contented suburban existence with his wife and three kids in a posh part of Utrecht, where he plots his career with the efficiency and regularity of an accountant. He spends five or six months of the year working three hours a day on new material and is rarely plagued with doubts over whether it will be funny. The rest of the year he goes on tour. So surely he must have a few quirky habits?

"Well," says Liberg, dredging the memory bank complacently. "I do have three or four large rubber boots."

"Why?"

"I'm not sure. I guess it's in case the Germans ever decide to invade again and I need to escape to Britain."

If his South Bank concerts go according to plan, then Liberg will be a more than welcome refugee.

Hans Liberg plays the Purcell Room tomorrow and Friday.

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كلنا من الأناص

# This clown is nobody's fool

Angela de Castro may be on the verge of pulling female clowning back from obscurity ... as long as the World Cup's not on. By Dominic Cavendish

ANGELA DE CASTRO looks at her watch again, produces a small bottle and tips some white pills into her hand. "It's to help my nerves," she explains, knocking them back with a swift flick of the wrist. De Castro has every reason to be nervous: the show she's working on, *The Gift*, finally coming to fruition after years of work-in-progress try-outs, could either establish her as a clown with box-office clout or it could see her fall flat on her face. With her lies the best hope in ages for improving the marginalised profile of the female clown. But on the second day of rehearsals at the Barbican's Pit theatre, there's a more pressing anxiety: her countrymen, Brazil, are playing Scotland in the World Cup this afternoon and she is fearful of missing out on the action.

De Castro is charming everyone with her football-craziness. She has asked for a TV back-stage in the likely event of a performance and a World Cup match clashing. Everyone concurs that she won't be able to fool around on stage properly if she isn't happy. When the moment finally comes to down tools - or in this case, down a gift-wrapped box - she brazenly divests her sizeable form of its sombre costume (beret, black jacket and culottes), slips into something more garish (a Brazilian strip - shorts, boots and all) and heads for the TV. Her mother, who has agreed to come over from Rio on condition that she will still be able to watch the games, would say that she'd got her priorities right.

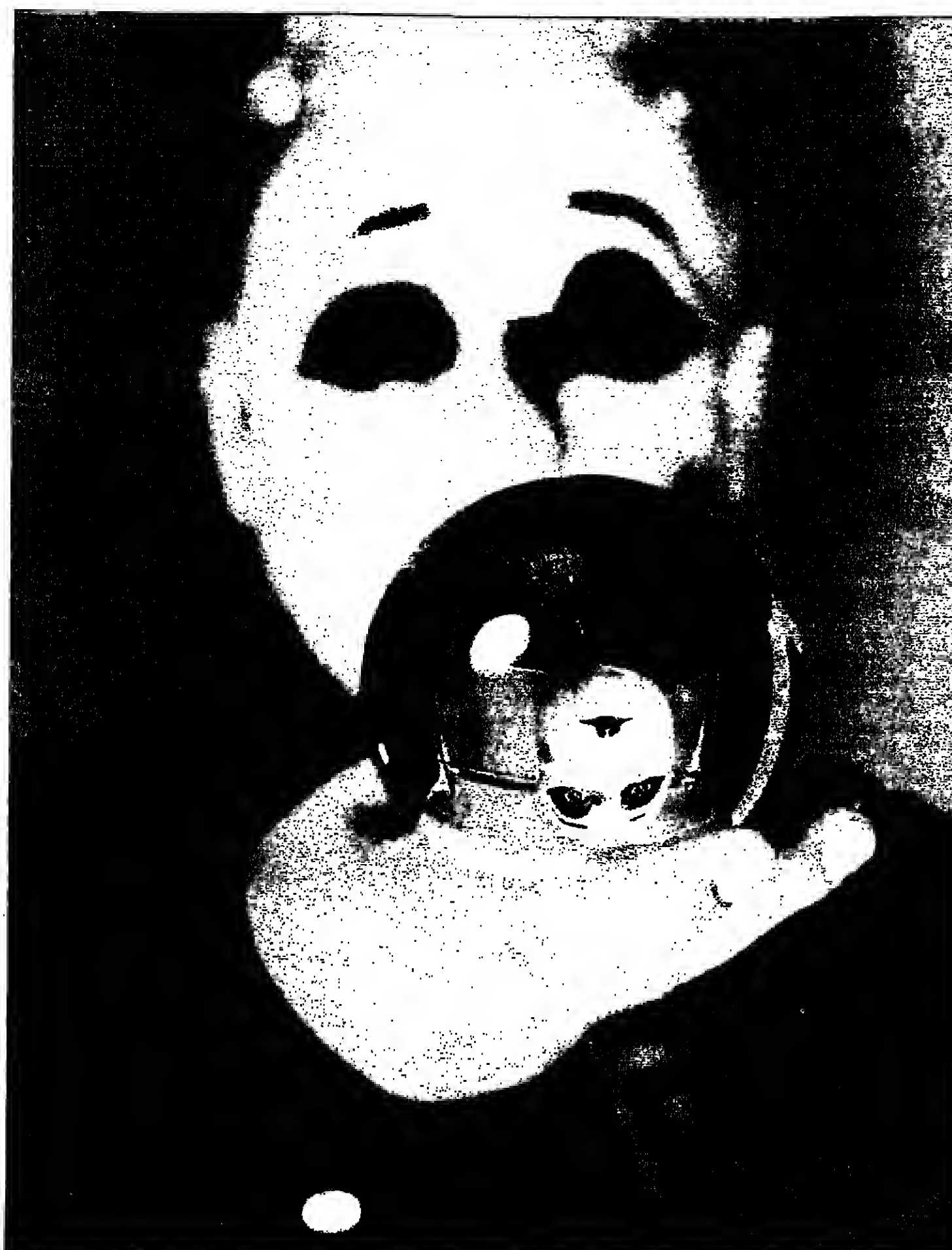
In person, De Castro, 43, is not what you would have expected if you'd seen *Snowshow*, in which, for the best part of three years, she played sidekick to Slava Polunin, hailed by Howard Jacobson, amongst others, as the greatest modern clown. There, shuffling in an outsized overcoat, her face obscured by blotchy make-up, wearing a hat laden with ludicrously elongated earflaps, she looked sinister and sad. Her hangdog expression seemed perfectly suited to Polunin's Beckett-like tableaux. Close-up, however, she effervesces like a sol-

uble vitamin tablet.

When the assistant director manages to shepherd her back on to the replica grass of the toy park set, it also becomes apparent that *The Gift* bears little resemblance to *Snowshow* other than that both could be described as the antithesis of big-top slapstick. Whereas the Polunin favoured a succession of startling images (a paper blizzard, a giant web, vast balloons to dwarf his audience), his erstwhile servant prefers a low-key, intimate approach. *The Gift* has a basic narrative: a character called Souza who appears clutching a gift and waits for a date to arrive. The androgynous character passes the next hour or so, warding off the fear of loneliness, combatting a poodle, dozing off and fantasising (de Castro has a sax-playing female sidekick) and finally arriving at the decision to, well, stop hanging around.

It could almost be a parable for De Castro's own life-change. She left Brazil in 1986, folding her own highly successful theatre company ditching a career as an actress that had seen national fame courtesy of a starring role in the Seventies Brazilian epic, *Macunaima*, and opting for a humble clowning course at City Lit in London. As she explains in still heavily accented English: "I was always waiting for something to click. I was fat and yet agile, and I got letters from people saying that I had changed the way they thought about their body."

She decided to concentrate on the physical side of theatre. If that sounds like opting for a child's life, then watching the director, Jos Houben, painstakingly putting De Castro through her paces, suggests otherwise. They agonise over whether she should read the newspaper she has snuffed out from the litter bin or whether she should simply use it to cover herself as she beds down on the park bench for an endlessly denied 40 winks. The Belgian - who has directed everyone from Archais and Théâtre de Complicité to groundbreaking vaudeville duo The Right Size last year -



'When I arrived in this country people said 'You're too much'... so I created a clown that could be what I couldn't be'

insists that "this is infinitely more risk-taking than *Snowshow*. It is a real challenge to go to a simpler, more vulnerable world. Rhythm is all you have - you have a beat and an off-beat and if you miss it, you've lost it."

He directs the mime by reminding De Castro what the game at any particular point is ("The game is 'shush, be quieter'") or "It's not how brave you are, but how frightening it is".

De Castro's theory of clowning operates along the lines of a game. She runs a workshop called "How to be a Shupid", which has become so successful it is now over-subscribed

wherever she takes it round the world (she even tried it with Ian Holm when he was preparing for King Lear at the National). As she explains while changing into her Brazilian kit, it's not so much about locating your inner child, as locating your most put-upon inner fool. "All my clowns come from a need to say something. If I can make you laugh at my mistakes, then maybe you can begin to laugh at your own. If there is such a thing as a clown's mission, then that's it. You follow a logic of unconsciousness. You have the courage to do things that everyone thinks but never says." For *Snowshow* she found "Rough",

whom she identified as a dog she remembered from Rio: "It was a dog that no one liked, it was full of bruises because everybody kicked it - it was literally a sidekick. The whole soul of that inept clown came up with that one image."

Souza, *The Gift's* character, is more directly rooted in her own experience: "It comes from my need to be romantic - to say, 'It's OK to be over the top, it's fine'. I like to do clowns that are on the edge, marginalised, minorities. I am one myself. I'm fat, a woman, black, a false blonde and a foreigner. When I arrived in this country people said to me 'You're too much'. People

didn't want to come up to me. I wanted to fit into this society so I quietened down, but I created a clown that could be what I couldn't be." When you watch her scuttle off to watch her football heroes triumph, to swig beer, scream "arsehole" at the referee, wave her little flag and point to a red crisp packet as a warning that she'll send off the next person to talk about *The Gift*, you can't help thinking that Angela de Castro is beginning to be accepted on her own larger-than-life terms.

From 23 June to 4 July  
The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2  
Box office: 0171-638 8891

## Anarchy in the twilight zone

IT IS Sesta time in Esperanza. Esperanza is a small island inhabited by musical elders and Rosa, a noble girl. Frankie Allegro, Rosa's lover, returns from America, full of rock 'n' roll and hot 'n' spicy ideas. His arrival is a culture shock for the islanders, who are more at home dancing a slow-motion jig to the drone of Uilleann pipes. All this is deduced from mime, movement and music as the dialogue is in Esperanza, which is spooky Spanish translated into agonised English. At the height of the festival the island is invaded by a revolutionary organi-

### THEATRE

STRANGE CARGO  
BEDFORD HOTEL  
GARDENS  
TAVISTOCK

sation promising freedom in the shape of totalitarianism.

With *Strange Cargo*, an open-air summer touring show, Knee High Theatre (now 20 years old), have set themselves a problem which no amount of technical know-how can solve. The show's dramatic climax comes when the light has fallen. Minds are then concentrated on the pool of light on the stage area. Lighted torches are brandished and the crowd movement becomes threatening. But English twilight lingers, and getting to the dramatic darkness means that the show has to stretch over the early stages. So the best bits are, inevitably, in the second half, which leaves the first half constituting three-quarters of the show. *Strange Cargo* will undoubtedly improve during its three month run, especially after the longest day.

Knee High Theatre have recruited a group of actors who are spry in movement and large in gestures, but although there is a good deal of comings and goings and some detailed comic business, there are with long lapses in between. In its comedy and melodrama, Knee High's style carries on where the legendary Footsbarn left off. They are more disciplined than their anarchic forebears but with the same homespun goonish humour and child-like inventiveness much favoured by audiences in the Duchy.

Bec Appleby, as the village idiot, shines as a mime artist, and Emma Rice makes a feisty Rosa, while Stu Barker's music, with its brass and hurdy-gurdy, reads the mood well.

The cast were clearly encouraged by the format, the direction (by co-writers and directors Mike Shepherd and John Lee), and finally the audience, to go right over the top. Fortunately, their gusto won't through some muggy episodes.

Thurs, National Theatre, London 9-11 July, and Edinburgh Festival. Information: 01872 223159

ALLEN SADDLER

## A brief but beguiling encounter



Strangers on a train

Clare Park

PARISIAN PLAYMATE Yasmina Reza must be the cost conscious producer's, and after-theatre diner's, dream. Her last play, the multi-award winning *Art*, lasted 90 minutes and had just three characters. Her latest, *The Unexpected Man*, takes just 75 minutes and is a two-hander.

Reza explores the intriguing concept of a middle-aged man and woman sitting opposite each other on a train journey and, in a series of monologues, projecting their fantasies on to each other, speculating about

their travelling companion's life and loves, and examining all too closely their own existence. Only in the evening's last few minutes do they take the risk of actually addressing one another.

For those of us who agree that train journeys can be erotically charged, and that we hold imaginary conversations with strangers, Reza's conceit is one that has been waiting to be written.

She puts a further ingredient into the equation. The man, played by Michael Gambon, is

THEATRE  
THE UNEXPECTED MAN  
DUCHESS THEATRE  
LONDON

an author, and the woman, Eileen Atkins, has his latest book in her bag. She has, she believes, been close to him for years. After all, she has read all his books and can an author really have no link to his work?

Perhaps to the instruction "don't talk to strangers on trains", all mothers should add the caution "never meet your

heroes". As Atkins plucks up courage to address her mentor, the self-obsessed Gambon is thinking partly about the unsuitable man his daughter is going to marry and partly about which laxative to use to aid his personal "downloading", a splendid use of a piece of computer jargon.

The production boasts two consummate performances. Eileen Atkins in particular can suggest enormous depths of sadness and longing while superficially twittering on about some flirtation from her

distant past. And Gambon, too, conveys a deep melancholy in his novelist's obsession with the squabbles of the literary world.

Matthew Warchus's production, transferring to the West End from the RSC's pit theatre, uses a constant background train noise and haunting mood music to give this surreal meeting that barely happens a suitably dream-like quality.

But while the concept is one that is full of potential, the dialogue (or rather the separate monologues) does not engage

as much as one would hope. The speeches seem too concerned with self-conscious cleverness at the expense of dramatic development.

This will not be the commercial hit that *Art* was. It is a slight play, but a beguiling one.

*'The Unexpected Man' continues at the Duchess Theatre, London WC2, booking to 8 Aug (0171-494 5075). This review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper*

DAVID LISTER

## La vie en rose, northern style

THE COLOUR of money is pink. The cloud of fivers that floats down on the audience just before the interval may suggest otherwise, but what matters is the spending of it - and then it is pink dresses, pink shoes, pink lipstick and of course a whopping great pink Cadillac. It was - probably still is - Viv Nicholson's colour - Viv the Castleford housewife who won the pools in 1961 and became famous for three words: spend, spend, and spend, and proceeded to try to turn her whole world the colour of extravagance, luxury, defiance and look-at-me.

The uncomplicated lustiness of this working-class mother of four has excited admiration from epicures and disapproval

from puritans down the years. She was a disrupter of the old expectations of gender and class, and of the ancient tension between prudence and excess. It is to the credit of Steve Brown's and Justin Greene's new musical on her life that, without becoming a sociological songspiel, it does seek to explore her character in the context of her time and place. I doubt it will be - as musicals always seem to have to be - a "hit", but it is as engaging as it is humanly substantial.

The structure is retrospective, opening in the present-day beauty salon - pink, of course - where Viv is working. This older Viv, played by Rosemary Ashe - with the dents of hard-won wisdom determinedly dis-

THEATRE  
SPEND SPEND SPEND  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
PLAYHOUSE  
LEEDS

guised - takes us through her early life. It's a life in a contradictory culture well expressed in the song "I'll Take Care of Thee" whose refrain, first introduced as the sentimental, closing-time boast of Viv's father (Neil McCaul) and his drinking mates, sometimes transmutes into tenderness, but can also carry the burden of a threat. Predictably, the young Viv's escape from the dour and impoverished side of this world is through the glitter-ball glamour of the dance hall,

the cinema and sex. Sophie-Louise Dann, who gives a whole-hearted and plausible performance throughout, is particularly good at showing us how Viv slips back and forth between being a yearning innocent and an accomplished slut. Again, the strength of this reading is that it does not deal in simplifications.

One central conundrum is the quality of the relationship between Viv and her second husband, the pools-winning Keith (Nigel Richards). He is seduced over the back fence by a Viv rapidly bored by housewifery; their prospects never look rosy, and they are all but down when the celebrated eight draws come up. But as their salvation dwindles to nothing

more than going to America to drink, so they begin to lose each other, only for their beginning reconciliation to be snuffed out by Keith's death in a car crash. "Who's Going to Love me?" sings Viv, and the great imponderable is whether, had Keith lived, she would have been spared the succeeding years of financial and emotional disaster. But, unseasonably, she has survived, content in the salon and the more modest transformations of a facial.

NB: Bank of Castleford currency not negotiable in Leeds. Until 27 June. Box office: 0113 213 7700

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

"IAN MCKELLEN'S PERFORMANCE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST OF HIS CAREER"

"TREVOR NUNN'S PRODUCTION IS SPECTACULAR"

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## CLOTHES LINE



### OUT OF THE CLOSET

PHIL GAYLE, THE BIG BREAKFAST'S BRIGHTLY SHIRTED NEWSREADER, REVEALS HIS WARDROBE SECRETS

"They don't make me wear those bright shirts on the telly. I began to wear them because the camera couldn't cope with the contrast between my skin and the white shirt. The man at ITN said 'No white shirts!' So I bought lots of bright ones instead. I think I've got one in every colour now, but if I see one in a shade I haven't got, I buy it. I recently bought a pillar-box red one to wear on the Big Breakfast, and it was so bright Denise and Johnny wore sunglasses every time I read the bulletin. When I finish at the Big Breakfast I go onto Channel 4 news. For that I wear pastel shirts and a smart suit. I've got a few made-to-measure suits, which I find easier than off-the-peg, because I'm 6ft 2ins and have long arms and legs. Not very adventurous I know. Apart from that I would say I haven't got a particular style. I'm a bit of a scruffy git really, in fact I

would go so far as to say I'm a fashion illiterate. Out of work I wear baggy black jeans, usually by Levi, and with an orange tab - red tab are too thin in the leg - with a T-shirt or button-down shirt. I don't wear jewellery, and I like casual deck shoes, although lately I seem to be wearing a lot more of my black brogues. It could be because I don't like snuffing. Most of the time stores seem to be populated by assistants who are just waiting for their Hollywood audition. I go to a shop called Slaters in Manchester for most of my clothes. They are really helpful, and always have stuff in my size. The only time I was ever fashionable was during my university days when I was into Dexy's Midnight Runners. I used to wear a woolly skull cap and the pea coat I bought with my first ever wage packet. I think I've still got it somewhere..."

### HOT THING

ARMY ISSUE VISORS ARE THIS SUMMER'S COOLEST SUNGLASSES



HERE'S ONE trend we can all afford: visors, or oversized glasses that allow the wearer to go cross-eyed and still enjoy protection from ultra-violet rays. It all started quietly last summer when trendier-than-thou London-based label YMC revived early Eighties aviator style visors, and they sold out straightaway. Then, for this summer, a minimalist German fashion designer, Jil Sander, teamed up with the most influential spectacle designer of the Nineties, Alain Mikli, to create a range called Jil Sander Eyes, which

- you guessed it - includes many variations on the visor. The ones pictured here are German army issue and were bought from an army surplus stall in East London for £9.99, but Woolworth's and Boots have been doing a similar style of sunglasses for years. (since they were last in fashion in 1983) and have proved to be a key source of the style which are far cheaper than the designer equivalent and yet offer a comparable level of protection. In the last few (unfortunately) sun-starved weeks, visors and oversized shades like these have been spotted perched upon the heads of fashionable and cyclist types alike. Surprisingly, once one has got over their largeness, they are extremely flattering, and can even double-up as a hair-band. Indeed, four of *The Independent's* trend-spotters noticed them out and about in London, Brighton and Manchester. Whether they go mainstream is another question. But who cares, these shades block out more sunlight than any others we've come across, and are highly practical when coping with a World Cup-induced hangover.

Jil Sander Eyes, from £100, available from branches of David Clulow, enquiries 0171-240 8284. Boots' Sportmask, £20, and filled in Aviator-style sunglasses, £25, available nationwide, enquiries 0845 070 8090. Bolle, enquiries 01202 324 535. Gucci, enquiries 0171-235 6707.

### FASHION TYPES



Remember pork-pie hats, back-to-front baseball caps, Kappa track suits and ultra-baggy pants? You may not have seen the last of them. By Melanie Rickey



## Blame breakdancing for this ...

Main picture: Tuti, dancer, and breakdancer, wears her dad's Adidas track-pants, yellow numbered top and red waistcoat by Hennes, trainers by Nike.

"I've been into hip hop for ages. I got into breakdancing when I auditioned for an All Saints video, and I haven't stopped since. When I'm breaking I need to wear tight clothes that allow movement on the floor, and it helps if they are synthetic."

Below, from left: Jason Nevins, DJ, wears yellow waterproof Ralph Lauren Polo Sport pants, white waterproof jacket by FUBU, hat by Pimpgear, trainers by Nike, yellow tinted glasses from street market and t-shirt by Stussy. All bought in New York. Nevins recently scored a number one hit in 12 countries, including the UK, with his remix of the 1983 track "It's Like That" by Run DMC. He has just finished remixing all of the Eighties

group Falco's hits, including "Rock Me Amadeus". "I'm into my Nike and Adidas trainers. I love baggy sweat pants and breaking pants and I've got a bunch of Polo Ralph Lauren. I guess I'm just into comfort stuff. Adidas give me clothes, so I wear a lot of that, and I'm definitely over jeans." Lisa Richardson, fashion designer, wears a stick-on real gold nail

baseball caps, Kappa track suits and lots of heavy gold chains? - we decided to see what the real hip-hopers were wearing. Here's the phenomenon already affecting fashion - some excesses being Phat Pants, the hugely oversized trousers (60-in hems) designed by New Yorker Anna Dimou; gold teeth, as sported by Phoebe Philo, assistant designer at Chloé (with Stella McCartney); and gold lamé harem pants by the Parisian designer Jeremy Scott, partly inspired by the Wu Wear range from American rap band the Wu Tang Clan for his last collection.

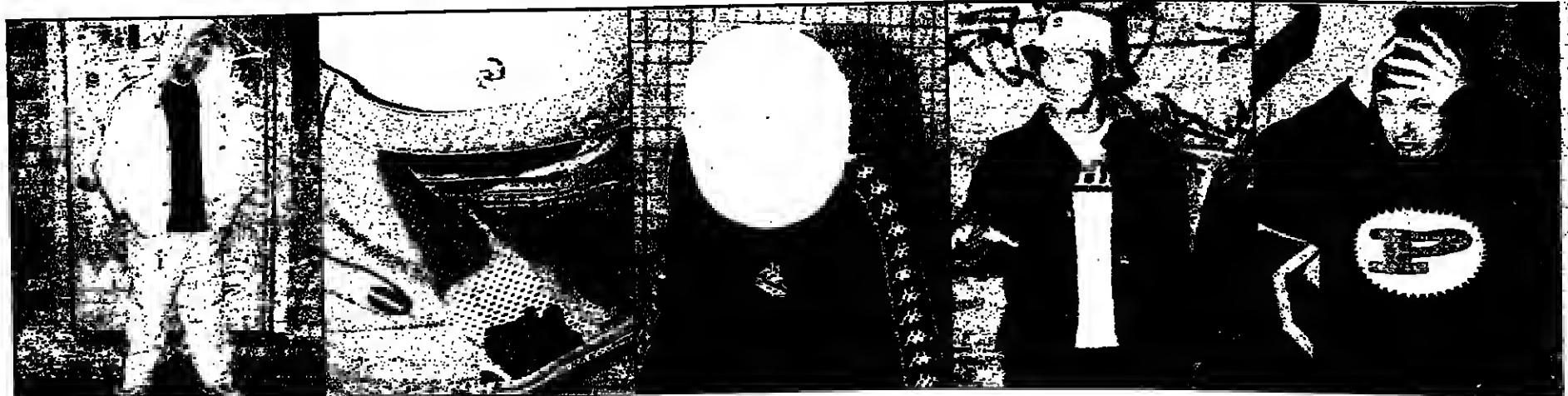
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUZY DEL CAMPO

Stuart Robinson, BMXer, wears baggy army pants by Maharishi; top by Dickies, denim jacket by Levi's, hat by Home, and T-shirt by BMX magazine Ride.

"I can see it now, Calvin Klein will be doing this look next, it's going to be massive. I've always loved baggy trousers, and pork pie hats, but I'm not sure about all that gold."

Tim Daly, photographer and skateboarder, wears sweat-top by Perver, hat from FUCT.

"The street kids are wearing labels like Perver, 303 Nation, and England which can be bought from most skate shops. Another label, DC's Clockers, could only be bought in specialist shops until six months ago; now they are everywhere, which is a sign of the times. Designers like Felix Blow, Vexed Generation and the new shop Urban Outfitters are trying to get the hip-hop look right, but it's too expensive for the people who are really into it."



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# How not to put your foot in it

Summer's here, and it's time to pay attention to feet. By Tamsin Blanchard. Photographs by Donna Trope

**C**laudia Schiffer, when stripping her way through the advert for Citroën, demanded a body double for her feet. Most models hate their feet. They are usually bunions, calloused and misshapen from years of being crammed into shoes that are too small, too high or just too ridiculous for words. If we had asked Claudia to model our fabulous bejewelled sandals, she would have turned down the job - even if we had offered

the requisite \$10,000. These sandals are for women with perfect feet and perfect bank balances. Threads of diamonds adorn the foot like pieces of jewellery, or clasp the foot to the sole of the sandal like a choker - a just reward for the kind of feet that spent their childhood years in the sartorial hell of Start-Rite and Clark's extra-wide fittings. If you wore sensible shoes for school and play, chances are your feet could be used as Claudia Schiffer's body double. You could always experi-

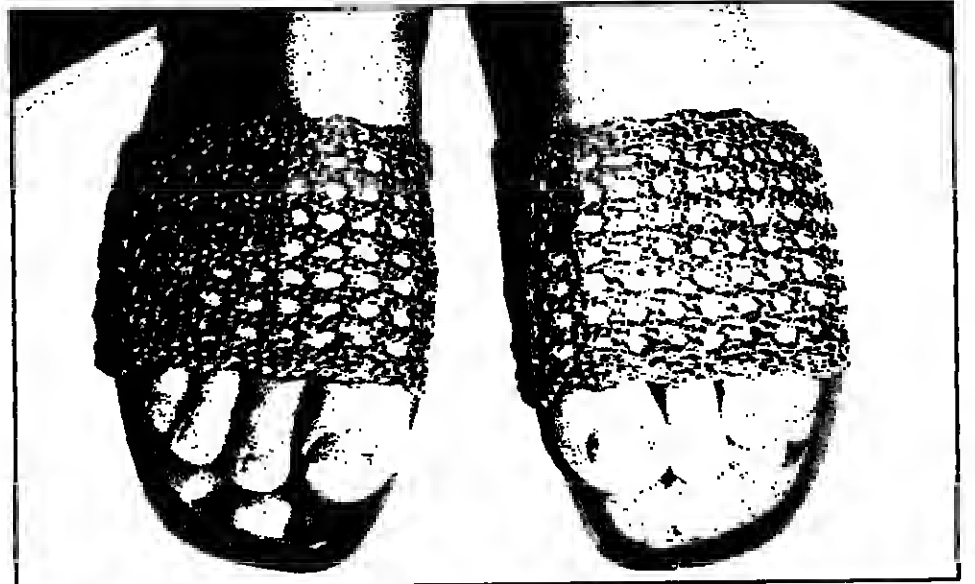
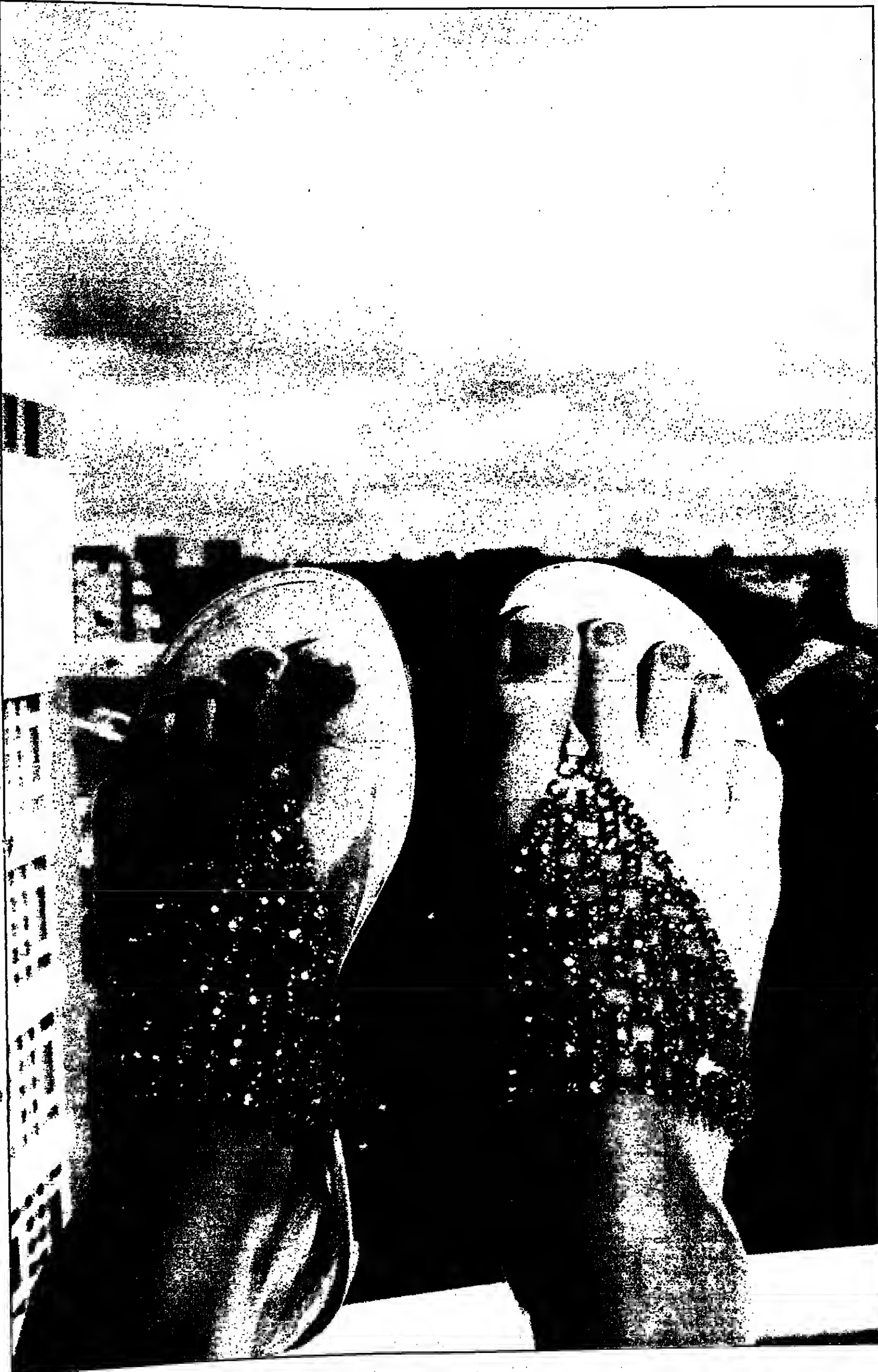
ment with plastic flip-flops, some Superglue and a string of sequins.) This summer, the shops are packed with shoes that Claudia Schiffer couldn't dream of wearing. They leave little to the imagination - just a strap here and a thong there. "Nude" sandals are all the rage. The strappier and fancier the sandal, the flatter they should be, so you can still look glamorous, but you don't need to risk toppling off your heels.

For most of us, however, the idea of wearing anything else but last year's sandals is a waste of money. They get worn for only a month a year, with the odd holiday in between. And with the weather record of this summer so far, anything strappier than a Wellington boot would seem to be sheer madness. But our feet deserve a break. They carry us around day after day, mostly trussed up in washed-up old socks or nasty nylons. No wonder they get so grim and scaly.

If there is one thing guaranteed to make you sit up and take notice of the state of your feet, however, it is the idea of a day out shopping for sandals. Your toes are curing at the thought of it, aren't they? There is nothing worse than trying on a pair of dainty, girly sandals in socks with holes in the toes. And bare feet with peeling Chanel Rouge Noir nails from last summer are just as bad.

What you need is a pedicure, either in the luxury of a beauty salon or health spa, or in your own bathroom with a little help from a good, old-fashioned pumice stone, some nail clippers, Philosophy's fantastic foot exfoliator Soul Owner (you simply smooth it on and leave it to do its work overnight), and a splash of the Body Shop's refreshing peppermint foot balm.

If your feet have been so neglected that they need expert advice, take yourself off to a Scholl chiropody centre for some firm scraping and prodding, or to the "Pedicure Throne" at the Urban Retreat Aveda Concept salon (at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge and Leeds). There, in return for £30, your feet will know pampering they never dreamed of. As for our foot model, who, by the way, is not Ms Schiffer's foot double, her tip for well-groomed feet is to moisturise every night. For the ultimate exfoliation, rub your bare feet in sand. Most feet seem to prefer the white, Caribbean variety. Once you've treated them to a pedicure, some lotions and a trip to St Lucia, you'll want to show them off to the full. Something with a little glitz and glitter should be just the thing.



Main picture: blue and gold diamanté sandals, £250, by Accessorie at Senso, 6 South Molton Street, London W1 (0171-584 3484) and from Fenwick, New Bond Street, London

W1. From top right: basket-weave sandals, £220, by Christian Louboutin, 23 Motcomb Street, London SW1 (0171-823 2234). Gold sequin

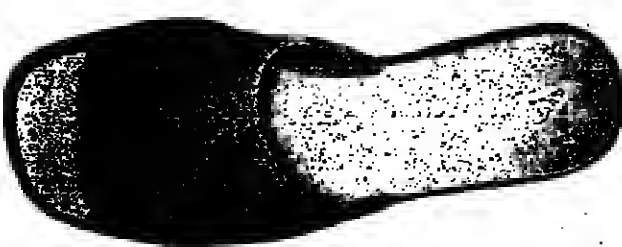
flip-flops, £185, by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1 (enquiries, 0171-235 2932). White sandals, £125, by Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1, and

branches (0171-499 2621). Blue diamanté sandals, £315, Gina Couture, from Gina, as before. Nail varnish: Schiap, £12.50, by Nars, from

Space NK Apothecary (0171-636 2523)

Stylist: Sophia Neophitou  
Foot model: Holly Wood

I have size 9 feet  
and can't find  
shoes to fit



MONICA DOUGLAS is a 23-year-old history student with two big problems dangling daintily at the end of her legs: size nine feet. They are a narrow fit, very slim and ladylike, but she has not been able to buy shoes in the high street for the past two years. She has been studying for four years, so she hasn't got the money to buy bespoke shoes. The common response by manufacturers to the question "why don't you make shoes in bigger sizes?" is, "there isn't the demand." Strange, then, that 21 per cent of adult females in

the UK are size seven-and-a-half or above, yet much of the High Street carries only up to a size seven. Small-footed people are well catered for (if they are above size three), yet only 15 per cent of women's feet are four-and-a-half or below. The home shopping catalogue The Shoe Tailor recently measured the feet of 20,000 women. One in three was wearing wrong-sized shoes because they couldn't find a better fit. The Shoe Tailor may be a good place for Monica to start. Ring 0800 262 717 for a free cat-

alogue and foot-measuring guide. Shoes go up to size nine in EE fitting. Other mail order options include Special Features, which specialises in long, narrow fittings. The shoes are not high fashion - they are, on the whole, pretty hideous - but there are wearable, classic shapes if you choose carefully. Call 0181-398 8810 for a catalogue. For summer sandals, try Sundaes (01406 371 370). Sizes range from three to 10, and there is a diverse range. If you prefer to buy from a shop rather than by post,

Clark's and K Shoes (0990 785 886) have cornered the market in larger sizes, and Jones the Bootmaker (0800 163 519) will specially order selected styles in the size of your choice. Women's loafers go up to a size nine. Emma Hope's shoes (0171-259 9566) also merit a mention: they are pretty, and available up to size nine, but are no good for those on a budget. It is also worth checking out unisex designs such as Birkenstock, which go up to size 12. Call 0800 132 194 for details and mail order. Buffalo has unisex

styles up to European 45 (size 11) for wannabe Spice Girls (www.buffalo-boots.com or ring 0171-379 1051). For a list of special needs footwear suppliers around Britain, send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to The British Footwear Association, 5 Portland Place, London W1N 3AA. HANNAH HUNTER

Sundaes (01406 371 370) has a diverse selection of summer sandals. The Sara design (top) costs £39.95; Sally (below) costs £42.95



# Fraudbuster targets NHS

To combat its 'staggering' levels of swindling, the health service now has a full-time anti-crime officer. By Paul Gosling

**F**raud has become such a problem in the NHS that last month the Department of Health appointed its first-ever "fraud supremo". The Government calculates that tens of thousands of operations are forgone each year because of the cost of fraud.

The man appointed to the new position is James Gee, who is well qualified to say the least. He is fraud adviser to Frank Field, Minister for Welfare Reform. More significantly, until he takes up his new post in September Mr Gee remains head of the anti-fraud team at the borough of Lambeth in south London, generally reckoned to be the most corrupt council in Britain; it lost 10 per cent of its annual income to fraud before Mr Gee's arrival.

Under his guidance Lambeth has halved estimated annual fraud, from £60m to £30m; more than 120 staff have been sacked; the rate of housing benefit fraud has been cut from 16 per cent to 9 per cent, saving £16m; and all candidates for election to the council, or for jobs, now have to pass a "propriety check".

The seriousness of fraud within the NHS has only recently been recognised. It is now accepted that about £100m a year is lost in prescription charge evasion by patients, and a further £15m through theft and forgery of prescriptions. There are no accurate figures for the losses caused by prescription fraud by GPs and pharmacists.

In one case pending prosecution, a GP and a pharmacist are accused of obtaining £500,000 by conspiring to write and process fictitious prescriptions in order to sell drugs for profit. In another case, a GP is alleged to have obtained £400,000 in payment for often unnecessary night calls. Some pharmacists have been accused of profiting by issuing generic drugs when more expensive, branded products had been prescribed, and some opticians and dentists are alleged to have charged the NHS for services they have not carried out.

The appointment of Mr Gee is a clear signal from the Department of Health that it aims for a big reduction in the level of fraud, working more closely with the police and the

Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that more fraudsters are convicted. A publicity campaign is to be launched to persuade the public that avoiding prescription charges is antisocial and reduces the effectiveness of the NHS.

A range of tougher procedures will be introduced. Watermarks are being introduced into prescription forms to make counterfeiting more difficult, and prescriptions are being numbered to assist the tracing of stolen forms. Doctors will be required to improve security of stored prescriptions. Pharmacists are to be offered rewards for detecting stolen or counterfeit prescriptions. Whistle-blowing of fraudsters will be encouraged through a new phone line. Health authorities will be given additional powers, to sack GPs convicted of fraud, and to investigate doctors and audit their accounts.

There is also a commitment to use new technology to combat fraud, and this may extend to establishing an electronic data system linking GPs and pharmacists, so that pharmacists can confirm via a computer that they are dispensing the right

drugs to the right patient, in the right quantities. The Government intends to introduce legislation to create a specific new offence of prescription payment evasion, with a fixed penalty fine.

Mr Gee will report directly to health minister Alan Milburn, and his priority will be tackling prescription fraud and charge evasion. Mr Milburn says that the levels of fraud uncovered by an investigation last year are "staggering". "This government is not prepared to tolerate this kind of law-breaking in the NHS," he adds. "Prescriptions are a vital part of NHS care and those who are exploiting the system are not only cheating taxpayers, they are depriving patients of the care they need. Those who are currently defrauding the Health Service and the taxpayer should be under no illusion. We will find you and we will punish you."

James Gee says that he will draw on his experience in Lambeth. "I will be working to three principles," he says. "We need a comprehensive, independent and professional approach. We must tackle all types of fraud against the organisation, and

use every appropriate method to do that. We must have a structure to tackle problems which is sufficiently independent of the administration to avoid conflicts of interest. We must recruit experienced people to detect and counter fraud, train them, and get them accredited.

"New technology has a tremendous potential to be unlocked in helping us. There is usually information somewhere to determine the truth or otherwise of an allegation. The trick really is to get at that information, and to get at it in a way that it can be used in evidence."

"Having used computer data-matching for some time in Lambeth, we have now gone beyond that. We produce a 'map' of fraud in the borough - not in the geographical sense but to show the links between different types of fraud. This helps us to direct our resources." In Lambeth, neural networking is used, a type of computer programming that analyses information, pointing out where previous examples of fraud are most closely replicated.

Mr Gee adds, though, that public bodies need to work with the Data



James Gee, the anti-fraudster

Protection Registrar to make more effective use of computer systems in combating fraud, and that this will be another of his priorities. "There are some problems that need to be resolved over data protection - with the guidance, rather than in the legislation," says Mr Gee. "Sometimes the guidance doesn't help counter-fraud, and the protection of public funds."

## Boom time for business - and the thieves

IT IS tempting to associate fraud just with economic hard times. But that is just the period when frauds tend to be discovered. When businesses are prospering, it is generally possible to hide all but the most serious examples of dishonesty.

Indeed, several leading accountancy firms have recently held seminars with the aim of reminding clients that fraud never goes away.

For example, KPMG Forensic Accounting said that last year the United Kingdom had suffered 55 cases of fraud costing more than £100,000, worth a total of more than £120m. This was a 27 per cent increase on the £95m cost of fraud in the previous year.

Since the end of 1987, the firm's "fraud barometer" has recorded 616 cases of fraud in excess of £100,000, totalling £2,628m.

A similar picture is painted by Ernst & Young, which points out that most frauds are committed by companies' own employees. Moreover, in discovering that nearly half of employee fraudsters had more than five years' service.

In fact, some fraud detection experts warn managers to be wary of those employees who appear to be the most committed. Working long hours, never taking holidays and refusing promotion can all be indicators of fraud, they say.

The Ernst & Young report, based on a survey covering organisations in 32 countries, showed more than half had suffered fraud in the past year, and that 57 per cent felt as much or more at risk from it than they had five years ago.

While computer fraud is general and the millennium problem in particular are giving cause for concern, there are also signs that management does not always know enough about its own business to prevent such misdeeds happening. Only 60 per cent of directors believe that they have a good or full understanding of their core business.

David Sherwin, partner in charge of Ernst & Young's fraud investigation group, says: "Companies need to act positively to prevent fraud happening in the first instance. They need to institute proper prevention and reporting policies."

It is a message reiterated by Adam Bates, fraud investigation partner at KPMG. "Frauds result largely from poor internal controls. Organisations and companies must be reminded that they have to keep a strict eye on these controls, and not be lulled into a false sense of security," he said.

And, while he warns of the risks of fraud from venturing abroad, particularly into so-called "emerging markets", the evidence from the Ernst & Young research is that "it doesn't matter where you are in the world: the risk of falling victim to fraud is just as high".

## The fallout after the gold rush

Business is often a gamble but too often investors risk finance without weighing up the dangers. By Roger Trapp

**B**usiness. AS anybody who has been involved in a start-up knows, is largely about risk. It is all very well envying the success of investors in Microsoft and Intel, but back when these corporations were just gleams in the eyes of their founders, putting up the money to turn these dreams into reality involved a lot of risk.

For this reason, it is not always possible to be sympathetic with the "victims" of corporate collapses. Investing in stock markets is - as the small print now points out - an inherently risky business.

But it is not just individuals who get caught out in this way. You have only to look at how insurance companies - which might be expected to make risk a core part of their business - howled with pain when the sharper-than-expected downturn in the UK housing market in the early Nineties led to correspondingly large pay-outs on mortgage indemnity policies issued when the market was booming in the Eighties.

Or there is the situation in the Far East, which only a short time ago was regarded by many companies as a land of limitless opportunity, but is now seen as an extremely dangerous region for investment.

If such mistakes are happening on such a scale, then maybe the conventional models for assessing risk are inappropriate. This is the argument of Ron Dembo and Andrew Freeman, a risk-analysis consultant and financial journalist respectively, in their book *Seeing Tomorrow* (John Wiley & Sons, £19.99). As the

subtitle *Rethinking the Rules of Risk* indicates, they are setting out to improve the ability to make important decisions and - accordingly - change the way in which investments and other financial decisions are made.

Much of their focus is on the business arena. They explain how even George Soros slipped up when he became involved in a property development with the Reichmanns in Mexico City that failed to go ahead as envisaged after the country's economy hit a downturn. But they also explain how their approach may apply to the housing market, where even they found themselves caught out by the cycle.

At the heart of their theory are the related concepts of "upside" and "downside", or, as they term the latter, "regret". Essentially, risk is all about analysing a situation to see if "U" outweighs "R". Regret, they argue, is more useful than existing risk measures because "it can reflect our appetites for risk".

To understand this better, they introduce the concept of "risk-adjusted value" - value that has been altered to take into account our personal attitude towards risk. Recognising that we are more prone to risk in some circumstances than in others, they have come up with a "risk aversion constant" that they give the Greek symbol, lambda.

"Another way to think of lambda is as a margin or insurance premium that we might decide to put against our possible losses, in the event that our upside fails to materialise," write Dembo and Freeman. "The larger the value for lambda, the more risk-averse the decision maker, because



Rioting in Indonesia after the collapse in the economy, the result of poor investment on a major scale

he or she is paying a higher price to self-insure the risk." Pointing out that most of us are risk-averse, they add that another way of putting this is to say most people would like to have the assurance that they have set aside enough funds to protect their downside. Hence the oft-repeated warning to stock-market investors and casino gamblers alike not to bet more than they can afford to lose.

But, though the language is full of complex mathematics, what they are really getting at is the need to think more clearly about risk. Too often, people - whether acting in

business or as individuals - seem to pay insufficient attention to weighing up the pros and cons of situations.

Even supposedly sophisticated organisations often fall in with the herd mentality rather than making their own analyses. Hence, so many banks were left nursing substantial losses when the commercial property market collapsed. They all followed each other into a market that, though it started out lucrative, quickly became catastrophic.

Similarly, many Lloyd's Names were caught out because past performance had indicated that be-

coming a member of an insurance syndicate was a certain way to make even more money than they had already. Of course, if they had thought about the true nature of what they were entering into, it would have occurred to them that the downside of making lots of money was the risk of losing even more.

But it is not just that people and businesses can get carried away by the Upside. They can also, as David and Jim Matheson, the authors of *The Smart Organisation* (Harvard Business School Press), point out, react in knee-jerk fashion to bad

news. Accordingly, they say, the turmoil in the Far East's financial markets is not bad news for everybody. While companies might want to be wary of becoming involved in public-sector projects or initiatives that require investments from indigenous companies, they can - for instance - find cheap manufacturing opportunities. With the Mathesons convinced that what really sets apart the great businesses is an ability to make the right decisions, a model that offers a better understanding of the nature of risk could well fall on fertile ground.

WHAT WITH the nightmares in which Neil breaks off his engagement to Kylie and declares undying love to me over the photocopier, I'm finding it hard to sleep at the moment. This is unfortunate. At the best of times, I'm usually running an overdraft on the snooze front, the result of attempting to have a social life as well as a career. But for the past week I've been feeling like one of the walking dead. I can't get my eyes or mind to focus on the screens, and the only thing keeping me on my toes is the thought of how much money I could lose trading in this state.

Plus, my regular cure for insomnia isn't working. Usually all I need to do is pick up one of my work books, preferably one with a colon in the title. A paragraph of *Options, Futures and Derivatives: The Nazi Generation* can send me to sleep in seconds, especially the Black-Scholes formula for option pricing. Yet I remember finishing several of them on my training



### THE TRADER

programme in New York, when I was new and keen. So that's why I have nothing to talk about at dinner parties...

It's precisely this kind of realisation that makes me feel we should replace ourselves by trading machines an go and do something useful instead, such as have a life. On the other hand, there may be an advantage in keeping traders locked up during the day. The thought of London swarming with redundant Little Types is enough to make you blench. My pal

Jane and I still remember Darren and Bobby, the pit boys we met in Barbados. They and their colleagues would have to go on courses to reintegrate them into society, to train them to talk less loudly, stop waving their arms around and not be so short tempered.

Of course, if we all got out more during the day, Laura and I would see a lot less of Neil, who is becoming ever more ghastly.

He has a habit of sitting well forward on his chair, legs splayed, which leaves little to the imagination. Since Kylie said "I will", the groin thrust has become even more pronounced, so by lunch time Laura and I are right off our food, and I'm starving as well as short of sleep.

By rights, this would be the perfect time to go away on holiday. In fact, I was giving the idea serious thought until I caught up with my mate James, who looked as if he'd been in a war zone but had, in fact, just

come back from an activity holiday in Greece.

First there'd been the wind-surfing injuries, the jellyfish sting and the dog bite. Then, to finish it off nicely, he'd cornered too hard on a mountain bike and collided with three old ladies and a donkey. "Top trip, though," he said. "Thoroughly recommend it."

Hmmm, I thought. Nevertheless, I managed to nip to the travel agent for a few brochures. There was no time to drool over them at work: Laura and I were cornered into pricing up some pathetic little £2m deal for Peter, aka "the Heavy Breather", as a favour.

Back home that evening, I crawled into bed armed with hot milk, my dull work books and a couple of the brochures. My eye was caught by a hotel on a tiny Caribbean island. I started to read the description: "washed by a limpid turquoise sea, fringed with shady palms..." The next thing I knew, it was morning.

THE BITTER dispute between the accounting firm Arthur Andersen and its consultancy counterpart Andersen Consulting appears to have intensified with the news that Consulting has introduced its first identity change since it was set up as a separate business in 1989. As well as the new graphic image, the firm - which is approaching annual revenue of \$60n after five years of 20 per cent-plus growth - is stepping up investment in such areas as advertising and event sponsorship.

ONLY 2 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK believe that the Late Payment Bill will help them. Businesses say that the Bill, which received Royal Assent last week and is due to come into force in the autumn, may be unworkable and unenforceable.

JOHN VINCENT, new president of the Association of Accounting Technicians, has pledged to use

### UPDATE

his year in office to convince employers of the value of the qualification. Encouraged by the association's record growth levels, he believes he can help professional practices to develop their own staff by taking on non-graduates and using AAT courses to meet skills shortages caused by increasing business opportunities.

WITH ONLY a few days to go before the introduction of self-assessment for companies, Kidsons Impey is offering businesses 10 tips for ensuring they are ready for it. David Harrison, the accountancy firm's national director of tax, particularly urges companies to remember that the change from "return on profits" to "company tax return" effectively shifts the responsibility for calculating corporation tax due, from the Inland revenue to the

company. As with personal self-assessment, which is already in operation, the procedures will change and there are penalties for late submissions and payment.

THE FINANCE Bill contains a hidden taxation catch-up charge that could increase professionals' top rate of tax from 40 to 44 per cent, warns BDO Stoy Hayward, the accountancy firm that claims to be expert in advising professional firms. With the Bill set to change the way that professionals calculate profits for tax, the provisions require them to pay tax on up to 110 per cent of profits every year for the 10 years from 1999/2000.

SMITH & WILLIAMSON, the accountancy firm and investment management house, continued its record of strong growth by announcing that fee income for the year to 30 April had risen by 18 per cent, to £45.3m.



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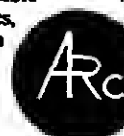
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You will be expected to teach a range of subjects to small groups of children/young people and deliver and monitor individual education programmes; liaise with education professional, statutory agencies and families with children age 5-16 years.

The person appointed will be supported by an enthusiastic and experienced team.

- a minimum of four years' experience of teaching. Including experience of teaching mixed ability group up to GCSE level is essential.
- experience of working with Afro-Caribbean children who can/may be disaffected from mainstream education provision.

Salary: £24,333 inc. IW  
Ref: VBC

#### 2. ADMIN WORKER

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Part-time - 16 hours.

Salary: £16,380 pro rata, inc. IW  
Ref: VAW

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Salary: £16,380. Pro rata, inc. IW  
Ref: VFO

For an application form, please write, quoting Ref. to Hazel Ellis, Claudia Jones Organisation, 103 Stoke Newington Road, London N16 8BX. These posts are funded by the National Lottery Charities Board. Closing date for returning your application form, 3rd July, 1998. Interviews will take place week beginning 13th July, 1998.



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also appear on page 15.



# When you just can't wait for treatment

You can go private. But be warned: health insurance can cost a family £1,000 a year. By Andy Couchman

EVEN AFTER 50 years of the NHS, there is still a place for private medical insurance (PMI), especially for the self-employed and others for whom getting treatment fast is a necessity, not a luxury.

The NHS is committed to treating people purely in terms of medical need. The fact that half a dozen jobs could depend on the boss having by-pass surgery quickly is not taken into consideration. Despite its periodic and well-publicised crises, the NHS remains the envy of the world. Where it is least effective is in so-called elective surgery where there is no immediate threat to life. That is where PMI can help. To some people, especially the self-employed and small business owners, it may be vital.

PMI is often provided free to higher paid employees. Otherwise, when it comes to choosing which plan to have, Andrew Green of brokers Green Demman of Hursley, point in West Sussex, advises deciding first whether you want just in-patient cover or out-patient cover too. Out-patient bills, though usually small, can quickly mount up if you need a course of treatment. "The third area to consider is psychiatric cover. Many insurers do not cover this, but as well as obvious mental conditions it can also cover illnesses such as anorexia or ME, and even reconstructive plastic surgery after an accident for psychiatric rather than purely medical reasons," says Andrew Green.

Often advertised as costing "from

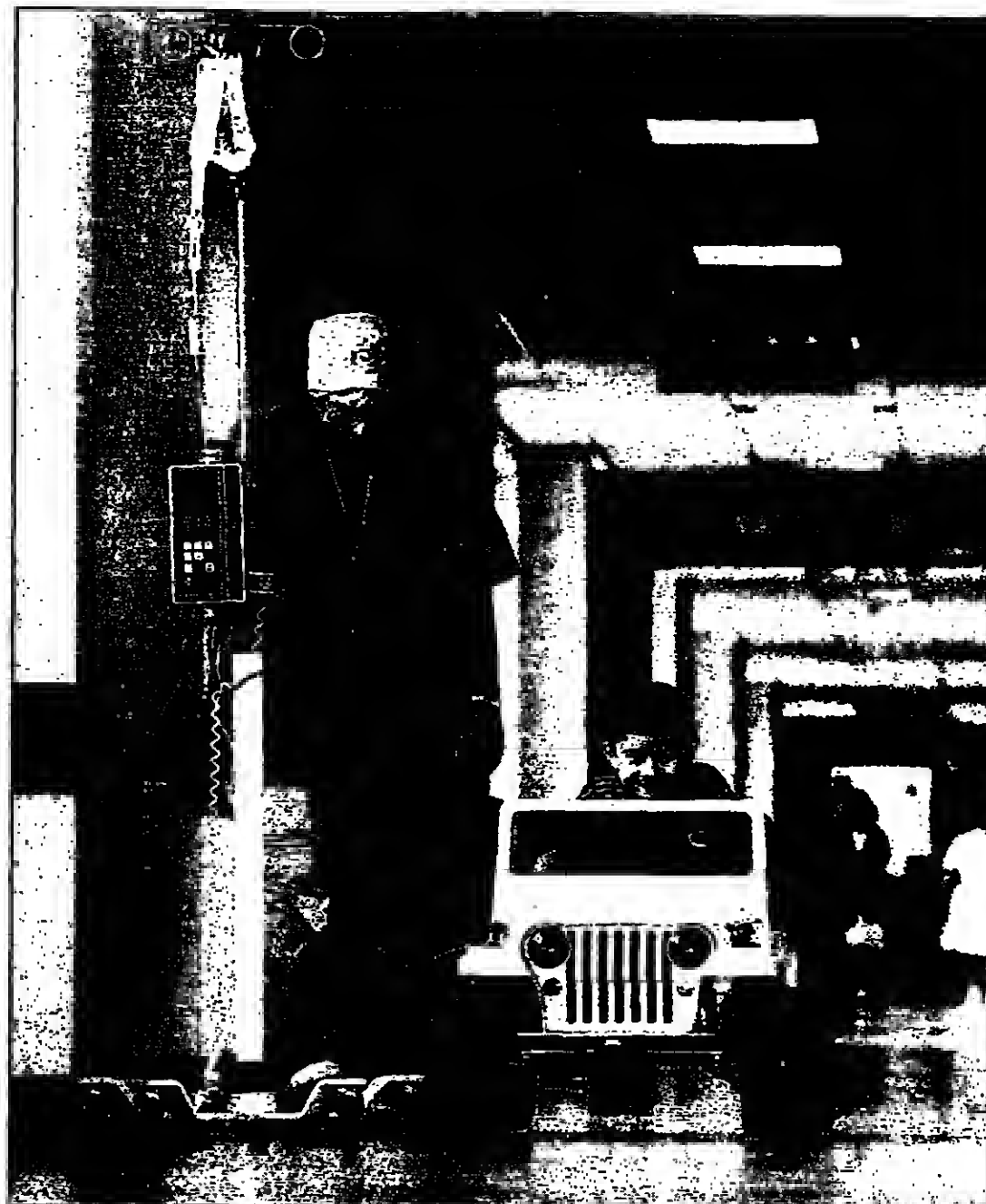
£9 a month", most people pay considerably more - two 30-year-olds with children, living in London, will pay around £1,000 a year on average.

But there are ways of reducing the cost. One option is an excess, where you pay the first £50 or more of costs, in any year and in return get a discount. WPA offers a five per cent discount for each £50 excess, up to £250/25 per cent.

Paying annually, if you can afford to, usually saves five per cent and choosing a lower hospital scale might save 20 per cent or more, although some insurers, including WPA, charge by your postcode. A more radical option might be not to cover your children - the NHS usually treats children faster than it does adults.

John Neville of PPP Healthcare says consumers now want plans targeted at their particular needs. PPP offers a range of five plans, from its Starter plan, which excludes most out-patient cover, up to its Platinum plan, the Rolls-Royce of PMI plans. A good reputation for service is also important.

Starting a plan usually means completing a full medical form. Your insurer may exclude treatment for specific conditions but some, including Prime Health, offer a moratorium instead. This excludes pre-existing conditions for two years and until you have been free of treatment - including consultations and check-ups - for two years. Both methods have their merits but make sure that you know which you have



You cannot always avoid falling ill, but you can arrange for the best possible treatment for you and your family - as this little boy discovered

and that you fully understand what you are covered for.

Andrew Green points out that other exclusions are fairly standard among insurers, the main ones being chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes, dental treatment, normal pregnancy and alcohol or drug dependency treatment. Sales of PMI are not regulated but, stung by recent Office of Fair Trading criticisms, insurers are drawing up new codes of practice.

When it comes to treatment, your GP will recommend an appropriate specialist and, unlike the NHS where a junior doctor may operate on you, a consultant will always treat you. Restricting which hospitals you use can save you money. Prime Health

gives a 15 per cent discount if you choose its 95 hospital network option.

John Lambie of Apropos - the Association for Proper Regulation of Private Hospitals - is critical of the lack of protection for private patients compared to the NHS, with its Patients' Charter and own ombudsman. In the private sector, if anything goes wrong, the only remedy may be to go to law. "Only the very rich and the very poor can afford that," he says. Apropos is calling for greater regulation, the same rights as NHS patients, and wants legal protection insurance for patients.

Apropos's claims are rejected by Barry Hassell, chief executive of the Independent Healthcare Association, who claims that independent

hospitals are subject to greater regulation than their NHS counterparts.

Whichever hospital you choose, do so on the basis of suitability for the job rather than solely on distance from home. If you do have any complaints, make them known to the hospital director at the earliest opportunity, says Barry Hassell.

Contact: Apropos at PO Box 418, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0FJ; Green Demman on 01273 834732; PPP Healthcare on 0800 334444; Prime Health on 0800 779955; WPA on 0500 414243.

Andy Couchman is publishing editor of "Health Care Insurance Report".

## Making your money work

"LEARNING IS a treasure that accompanies its owner everywhere" is one of my favourite Chinese proverbs. It sprang to mind when Michael George came to see me about his pension planning. He had read an article about poor-performing investment funds, somewhat lamentably described as "dogs".

In addition, he said, the stock market seemed to be due for a mighty correction. So he had deferred making a decision on his pension for the last 18 months.

We began by examining Michael's current tax position and quickly established that he is a higher-rate taxpayer.

His concern over the state of the stock market had led him to keep £60,000 on deposit at a high-street bank. This was generating a modest 3.6 per cent a year, before tax at 40 per cent. Had he kept his money in Standard Life Bank's postal deposit account, paying 7.3 per cent gross, he would have earned an additional £2,200 or so a year. In his haste to be cautious, Michael had "diddled" himself.

His only question now was, which pension fund to choose?

"Had you not realised," I inquired, "that a pension contribution could be held within a pension fund deposit account, entailing no risk to your much-loved capital?"

"Does that mean I could have avoided paying tax on the interest for the last 18 months?" Indeed it does, I told him. "Well, let's get on with it right now," said Michael.

But ironically, that might not be a good idea. You should consider your long-term investment goals.

"Almost any type of investment fund is available. You could, for example, invest in a with-profits fund. This typically holds investments in a mixture of cash, property, government securities (gilts) and shares."

With such an investment mix the ups and downs of the stock-market can be smoothed out.

Warning to the idea

### THE FIXER



RODDY KOHN

Michael asked: "Should we do that, then?"

"No," said I, much to his surprise. "We haven't talked about guaranteed funds yet, an area where your capital is truly protected from falls in the stock market but promises the opportunity for capital growth by linking your returns to the FT-SE-100. Then your money participates in most of any capital growth in the stock market, but not all of it. On the other hand you may think it reasonable to give up, say, 30 per cent of the growth in order for your capital to be fully protected."

"You've got a good point there," Michael reasoned. "So shall we go for that scheme?"

"I'd advise you to choose a combination of one-third in the with-profits fund and one-third in the guaranteed fund, and take a higher-risk approach with the final third."

"You mean I can invest in more than one pension scheme?"

By now Michael was starting to realise that by choosing more than one provider for his investment he was reducing his risk.

I didn't have the heart to tell him that we had yet to explore the tremendous opportunities offered by investment trust pensions. But at least, in these few minutes, I had opened his eyes to some of the options.

Roddy Kohn is a partner in Kohn Cougar, independent financial advisers in Bristol (0117-9466384).

## Surfing the secrets of the money trade

IF YOU'RE an amateur investor, then you are working at a disadvantage. To begin with, the professional investors have up-to-the-minute information on the movement of share prices. Secondly, they have advisers helping in their decision-making about what the market is going to do. Finally, they have other investors working around them, and can share in the great City grapevine about what is moving and why.

So how can a personal investor ever hope to make a profit? The solution is to level the playing field as much as possible, and one of the best ways to achieve this is with your PC. From the Internet, you can get up-to-date financial information, with packages offering you suggestions on how the market or individual prices might move, and you can take part in newsgroups and share dealing clubs to get feedback from like-minded personal investors.

Newsgroups can be particularly good for giving you a sense of community; typically, you'll get messages posted along the lines of: "Anyone in here been watching company So-and-So recently? If so, can you explain the price rise over the past three months?" After which you'll usually get a few messages offering suggestions. You don't have to wade in and post lots of messages; just lurk quietly for a while and you'll learn quite a lot - if nothing else you'll soon discover who seems to know what they're talking about.

Newsgroups and share-dealing clubs are fine in their way, but they are essentially collections of other amateurs, and you will probably want to see more professional information. By choosing the source of your price data carefully, you might well be able to get data such as AFX news. This is a round-up of all the regulatory news, and you can read about rights issues, mergers and acquisitions.

The Web is a mine of information for amateur investors.

By Kay Ewbank and Janet Swift



Professional traders have many advantages, but you can catch up if you know how to use your PC

tions, and company financial results. Some offer information, such as Hemmington Scott reports; most will have information about securities that are moving, and up-to-date stories about financial happenings.

Some price feeds, such as Market Eye, will show you the risers and fallers arranged by index, so you can see what's moving in the FTSE 100 or 250, SEAG, Gilts, or fixed interest securities. Most of the services offering price and analysis information let you set stop-loss limits on securities, so that if the security you're interested in moves outside a certain price band, an alarm warns you.

In addition to your price feed, the Internet bristles with sites offering general or specific financial information. Some,

such as the Bloomberg site, have an open area where you can read news stories, see the current state of the market index, and look up a security value. Bloomberg also has a subscribers-only area for subscribers to the Bloomberg Money magazine. Reuters also has an open area in its website, with a financial news ticker, market indices, and access to back issues of the Reuters magazine.

You will also find useful analysis and predictions in the open areas of sites such as ESI, and PC-Quote Europe. Background information can be found in sites such as IMRO (www.imro.co.uk), and the Treasury (www.treasury.gov.uk).

While the general information might be useful, you shouldn't ignore the analysis op-

tions of your chosen portfolio management package. Typically, you can look at the movement of your securities against the market index and short-term indicators, add trend lines, and look at volatility. You should also be able to view fundamentals data, such as yield and P/E ratios.

There are more specialised packages which go much further. One of the best is AIQ Trading Expert, giving you a technical analysis of the state of the market, alongside an integrated portfolio manager. Developed in the United States by distilling the knowledge of professional Wall Street traders, Trading Expert is popular with many professional traders, and in the US, professional traders have won the "trader of the year" award by following its advice. The way Trading Expert works is by using artificial intelligence techniques to look at the way the market has moved, and comparing those to past patterns. Around 400 rules are tried out on a security, then a report is prepared showing you which rules have been applied, and what the rules suggest might happen.

Trading Expert also has a trial mode. You come up with an investment strategy, then try it out using historical data to see whether it would have worked. Having weeded out the loss-making ideas, you can then have Trading Expert look through the stocks and shares available, and show you the ones that fit your strategy.

Using a combination of the sources covered here, it is possible to get a pretty rounded picture. Although you will probably never know as much as the professionals, you should know enough to decide what to buy, what to sell, and when to do it.

Trading Expert: Trendline, 01707 661 717

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Pressure is growing for a radical overhaul of the leasehold system. Karen Woolfson reports



No return to the 19th century: Leaseholders with nightmare landlords are being encouraged to get involved in the overhaul of property law

Hulton Getty

## Flat owners unite...

LEASEHOLD REFORM has shot up the priority list in the House of Commons due to the powerful force of a new parliamentary group set up by the MP for Brent North, Barry Gardiner. The group, which is calling for a radical overhaul of the present system, is not only behind a 90-minute Commons debate on the subject, but is now calling for leaseholders with nightmare landlords to be directly involved in the process.

Mr Gardiner says: "Any working party should be endeavouring to have a weighted balance of the interests involved. Half of the body should be made up of leaseholders, otherwise they won't be represented." He adds that the Government's report must represent "the real balance of interests, which of course is about the leaseholder and not particular specialist groups, such as the British Property Federation".

He says that there are probably 1,000 leaseholders for

### HOW THE LAW HAS TO CHANGE

SOME OF the suggested reforms to leasehold legislation:

- Tight regulation and licensing of managing agents and accountants by a watchdog with teeth, run predominantly by leaseholders who have experience of rogue landlords.
- Original service charge accounts and supporting documents to be made available for examination by each leaseholder (where there are ten flats or fewer). Or to arrange for an expert to scrutinise each financial year, giving 21 days notice.

Failure to do so automatically reducing by 5 per cent, every four weeks, the service charge payable by a leaseholder.

- Heavy fines on managers/freeholders and withdrawal of their licence if they attempt to collect funds (£50 per flat or £300, whichever is the greater) for future building works, or attempt to set up a sinking fund, without first having fully consulted all leaseholders and provided two independent estimates for the proposed works.

- Clampdown on managers freeholders who fail to follow company law, such as the procedures for holding AGMs and EGMs, particularly relevant in the case of collective enfranchisements.

- Local authorities to take a tough line on enforcement against landlords who fail to provide access for leaseholders to inspect the service charge accounts and supporting documentation. Highlighting that the latter is a criminal offence which can mean a fine or jail.

hold freehold spectrum, plus lawyers, tenancy relations officers and the Department of Environment and Transport.

Meanwhile, Karen Bach, MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North, is calling for local authorities to take a tough line against landlords who fail to supply proper summaries of costs and access to inspect service charge accounts.

She says: "It is undoubtedly the case that both resources for mediation and advice and a hard line on enforcement are necessary. And the mediation approach is less effective where local authorities are not sending out a signal that they are prepared to take enforcement action against landlords."

Ms Bach adds that Brighton and Westminster councils take a strong line, and urges other boroughs to follow suit.

Karen Woolfson welcomes comments. Write to: Homebodies, c/o Nic Cicotti, 'The Independent', One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. She regrets she is unable to reply to all letters.

Carl, Stella Evans, PO Box 3076, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 5BT; FLA, Paul Pritchard, 0181-2008547; Freeia, Charlotte Martin, PO Box 26303, London N8 7WJ. Contact your local council for the name and telephone number of its tenancy relations officer.

every freeholder: "so if you look at it in terms of how many people comprise that group, by far the majority are leaseholders. That majority should feel its interests are not being marginalised by a supposedly democratic system."

The Government is itself underlining its commitment to

change in the leasehold system. Nick Raynsford, Minister for Environment and Transport, has told MPs: "The key to the problem is that the balance of control between landlords and leaseholders is unfair... the existing leasehold law in this country is fundamentally flawed... and the time has come for reform."

He has confirmed that the Government will be publishing a consultation document on leasehold reform and "will legislate as soon as we can once we have assessed the results of the consultation". It is believed, however, that the publication of the document will be delayed until July.

The Government is also

being urged to involve representatives from a number of leasehold groups who have difficult landlords in the process of rewriting the legislation, as they have direct experience of how the current system is being abused and a keen understanding of what needs to be changed. The parliamentary group argues that the input of flat-owners is imperative to prevent the consultation document from being skewed towards freeholders and those who work for them.

Obvious candidates for a working party include Stella Evans, of the Campaign for the Abolition of Residential Leaseholds (Carl), plus her colleague Nigel Wilkins; Paul

Pritchard, of the Freshwater Leasehold Alliance (Freeia), which has over 1,000 members; the head of Freedom from Leasehold Abuse (FLA); Ken Murray, who represents hundreds of flat-owners in Kent; Peter Clark, who was involved in a landmark case against two landlords at Haringey Magistrates' Court; and a representative from one of the nightmare Docklands blocks.

Stella Evans is already part of the working party set up by Peter Haylor, chief executive of the Leasehold Advisory Service, to look at leasehold reform. The emergence of this group is a useful addition to the debate and includes representatives from every side of the lease-

## Claim your due from the taxman

Money to invest? Make sure you take advantage of the best deals. By Rachel Fixsen

WHY PAY more tax than you have to? If you are a higher-rate taxpayer, income on investments may be nearly halved by the Inland Revenue.

Financial advisers say we are still not making the most of tax-free savings opportunities generously created by successive governments.

"Obviously Peps and Tessa have been a big success story, but the bulk of money is still in banks and building societies," says Bryan Fisher, of independent Berkeley Financial Planning.

Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts, or Tessa, are offered by banks, building societies and investment companies. You can invest up to £2,000 and as long as your capital remains untouched for the full five-year term, interest is tax-free. You can withdraw the equivalent of net interest during the term without affecting the tax-free status. At the end of the term, you can re-invest in a follow-on Tessa.

You are allowed to have only one Tessa at a time. Depending on the provider, your minimum investment may be £1 or the full £2,000. Some allow you to make payments whenever you want; some demand regular monthly contributions; others insist on lump sum investments. Interest arrangements also vary.

Personal Equity Plans or Peps are basically tax-free wrappers for share-based investments and some types of bonds. Returns made are free of capital gains and income tax. UK residents over 18 are allowed to put £5,000 into a general Pep plus £3,000 a year into a plan that holds shares in just one company. A vast range of investments is available, and the charges levied can sometimes mean that tax advantages for basic-rate taxpayers are cancelled out. Typically a provider will charge 3-4 per cent initially and make a 1.5 per cent annual charge, but it is worth shopping around.

Peps are due to be replaced with Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) next April. Pep investments can simply be transferred into an ISA. But the allowance will be lower: £5,000 a year, or

£7,000 for the first year.

It is still worth taking out a Pep to make the most of this year's tax-free allowance, says Jim Preston, of Wesleyan Financial Services. "With the ISA, it's not 100 per cent certain what the Government will allow."

National Savings offers a range of tax-free products. Lump sums invested in fixed-interest Savings Certificates pay a fixed tax-free return over five years. If the investment is held for the full term, the current 48th issue pays 4.8 per cent a year. Index-linked Savings Certificates also run for five years tax free, but the rate of interest here moves in line with the Retail Prices Index each month.

Premium Bonds, also issued by National Savings, are more than an alternative to buying a lottery ticket. Many people see them as serious investments.

"We've seen a big increase in people with the maximum holding of £20,000," says Cerys Jones, of National Savings. "Over 130,000 people have got that much." With average luck and the maximum holding, you would win 10 £50 prizes a year and three £100 prizes. "And that's not including your chance of winning the £1m jackpot."

One of the best tax-free savings opportunities is a pension. You get tax relief at your highest rate of tax, so for every 60 pence a higher-rate taxpayer pays in, £1 is invested.

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Just because a savings option is tax-free, doesn't necessarily mean it is a good investment. "Look at the underlying investment... you can't let tax blind you," says Mr Fisher.

Wesleyan Financial Services: 0800 22 88 55. Berkeley Financial Planning: 01203 555240. National Savings: 0645 645000. 'The Independent' free guide, 'Making Your Investments Work for You', covers every aspect of financial planning. It is sponsored by Wesleyan Financial Services. Call 0800 1379749, or fill in the coupon on this page.

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STANDARD LIFE Bank, the Scottish insurer's banking subsidiary, is launching a 50-day Notice Account paying 7.55 per cent gross on deposits over £1. The account promises to pay interest on withdrawals until the money arrives in a designated account. Multiple accounts can be pooled. Monthly income and annual growth options are available. Call 0345 556567 for details.

WOOLWICH is launching a five-year Guaranteed Equity Bond, linked to the FTSE 100 share index. At maturity, the bond will either pay a maximum of 65 per cent of any rise in the index, or return all funds if share prices should fall. Bonuses of up to 0.6 per cent of the capital invested are available for early investments. Details are available from all Woolwich branches.

NEWCASTLE BUILDING Society has confirmed that it will be raising the rates paid to savers but freezing its mortgage rates in the wake of the Bank of England's recent base rate rise. The society says most of its variable rate accounts will rise by 0.25 per cent.

LEEDS & HOLBECK Building Society is dropping minimum investment levels on its YoungSaver account to £50 and increasing the rate to account-holders under 21 to 7.05 per cent gross. Over-18s are offered a Tessa paying up to 7.3 per cent gross, plus a loyalty bonus of 0.5 per cent on the fifth year's investment. Call 0800 0728738.

WESLEYAN SAVINGS Bank, the financial services company's banking arm, is offering a telephone-based savings account, WealthSaver Direct, that pays 6.75 per cent gross on sums above £10,000. Two notice-free withdrawals are available each year. Call 0121 2120899 for information on Wesleyan's range of options.

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# Brussels beckons brightest and best

Europe is crying out for British secretaries, so is it time for you to go?  
By Helen Jones

If you think that the European Commission is stuffed full of faceless bureaucrats worrying about the intricacies of fishing policy and, even worse, based in boring Belgium, then Public Service Minister Peter Kilfoyle would like you to think again. "I want the brightest and best British secretaries to realise that an exciting job abroad can be theirs. Secretarial jobs in EU institutions are immensely varied. The work is responsible and challenging, demanding the flexibility to get on in a multi-cultural environment," he says.

British secretaries are highly regarded in the European Union institutions and demand always exceeds supply. Unsurprisingly, the British government is keen to redress the balance.

A Cabinet Office source confirmed that the EU receives fewer applications from Britons than from other member states but would not go so far as to blame off-quoted British resistance to the European Union for British under-representation. "It's a cultural thing, and also partly to do with languages. You have to have two languages and the British are perhaps not as motivated as other nationalities to learn languages."

All EU posts are available to citizens of member states and are subject to an open competition. These competitions are usually published in the national press and involve three stages: a pre-selection test, a written examination and an interview. The latest competition, run jointly by the European Commission, which originates the policies and laws of the Union, the Council of the EU and the European



Susan Currie, who works at the European Commission, advises candidates to brush up on their grammar

Bert van den Broucke/Photo News

'Good English is the most important thing'

Susan Currie, 29, joined the European Commission in February and works as a secretary for the deputy head of external relations dealing with nuclear safety issues. "I had worked in Australia and then joined the Commission because I wanted to work in an international setting. The job security was one of the things that attracted me," she explains.

Ms Currie sat an open competition to get the post and suggests that anyone thinking of going through the process should make sure that their English grammar is up to scratch. "Some of the people for whom English is not their mother tongue, but who speak excellent English, found it quite difficult."

The Commission also offers opportunities to develop more language skills - Ms Currie already speaks French - and to take part in competitions for promotion. "I'd like to move on up, take more courses and further my career here," she says.

As well as enjoying the work, Ms Currie says that she has very full social life in Brussels. "In the English-speaking population I would guess that there are around 20,000 expats and it's very easy to meet people because we are all in the same boat."

"You soon get into a social group and my friends are all different nationalities."

Parliament, is for 330 English language secretarial posts. Successful applicants will work in Brussels or Luxembourg. Candidates need to be aged 18 to 35, have five GCSEs, two years experience and good word processing skills. They must also have a good working knowledge of another EU language - Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish or Swedish. However, a spokeswoman for the Office of Public Service says: "Applicants don't need to be fluent in a second language but must have a competent command - around A level standard."

Mr Kilfoyle says that secretarial competitions don't take place very often - the last large-scale secretarial competition for the European Commission was held in 1994. "I want as many people as possible to apply for these posts and my European staffing team can offer candidates guidance and advice to get them through the assessment process," he says. Those lucky enough to get through - and competition is expected to be stiff - will receive a monthly salary of approximately £1,379 to £1,919, although employment in the EU also carries a range of special allowances and a special tax rate.

Once in a secretarial post, promotion can be fairly rapid. Joan Scott started as a secretary in the agricultural department after taking a bi-lingual secretarial course. "I started as a C grade secretary and I am now at A grade. I am responsible for recruiting 620 graduates twice a year and I manage a budget of 3.5m euros," she says. "It's not the faceless, grey place people may imagine. It's a very exciting place to work and you get to work alongside people of all different nationalities."

It's similar story for Louise Overbury who started as a secretary, then for Neil Kinnock and has now returned to the UK and works as a recruitment consultant for the EC in London. "If you are prepared to look for opportunities and be mobile and flexible then you can get on and build a career," she says, but adds: "The one down side is that I like to think that if I had worked for a big City

bank, for example, my talents might have been recognised and I might have made it to managing director but it doesn't work like that in the EC and if you are very, very ambitious it may not be for you."

As well as the opportunities for promotion, both stress that contrary to expectation, Brussels is a great place to live. "People underestimate just how pleasant it is to live here. The transport is really good and it's really cosmopolitan," says Ms Scott. Home comforts are also readily available. "I put on Radio 4 and get my copy of *The Independent* every morning. When I go shopping there's a huge choice from Belgian food to baked beans. It's not exactly Outer Mongolia."

For application forms for the competition, write to General Secretariat of the Council, Recruitment Department, EUR/C/140, Rue de la Loi 175, B1048 Brussels.

Enclose a self-addressed, self-destined label. A small number of forms will also be made available by the European Staffing team. Tel: 0171 270 6295/6294 or out of hours answerphone - 0171-270 4501.

For information about any future competitions, contact the Cabinet Office Vacancy Information Service. Telephone the numbers given above or write to: European Staffing Team, Room 611A, Office of Public Service, Horse Guards Road, London SW1P 3AL.

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For details and an application form, please telephone Kim Dawson on 0171 772 6238. The closing date is Monday 22nd June. Applications may be faxed to 0171 723 9164. Registered Charity No 213280.

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## NEW FILMS

**THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET** (15)  
Director: Roberto Bagnara  
Starring: Joanna Ward, John Thomson  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right

**THE APOSTLE** (12)  
Director: Robert Duvall  
Starring: Robert Duvall, Farrah Fawcett, Billy Bob Thornton, Miranda Richardson  
Robert Duvall's direction is elegant and cool, but his performance as the preacher obsessed with and possessed by God is outstanding for all the opposite reasons. Duvall plunges into the role of Sonny in the same way that Sonny is engulfed by his religion, and the effect is terrifying and entrancing all at once.

**A THOUSAND ACRES** (15)  
Director: Jocelyn Moorhouse  
Starring: Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Jason Robards  
When a crochety but revered farmer (Jason Robards) decides to divide up his land between his three daughters, he is agitated that the youngest (Jennifer Jason Leigh) should question his actions, and promptly excludes her from proceedings - not because it's a plausible reaction, but rather because *A Thousand Acres* has King Lear as its template. Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer get to do a lot of crying and bonding, but their talents are wasted, and the film's final bid for tear-jerker status is cold and calculated.

**THE GRASS HARP** (PG)  
Director: Charles Matthau  
Starring: Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, Piper Laurie, Charles Durning, Roddy McDowall  
An adaptation of Truman Capote's novel about the lives and loves that intersect in a southern American town in the 1940s. Unfortunately, it plays rather drably, like a particularly humdrum episode of *The Waltons*. A fine cast has been assembled to

little effect, and Charles Matthau gets unimpressive results from directing his father, Walter.

**THE BIG SWAP** (18)  
Director: Neil Johnson  
Starring: Mark Adams, Sorcha Brooks, Alison Egan, Richard Cherry, Julie-Anne Gillitt  
Taking off from the key party in *The Ice Storm*, this follows a group of five couples whose lives disintegrate when they start swapping partners. A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama played out against Sunday supplement locations.

**SOUL FOOD** (15)  
Director: George Tillman Jr  
Starring: Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox, Nia Long, Michael Beach  
A black version of *Parent Hood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. Only the marvellously sassy Mokhi Phifer (*Clockers*) emerges with dignity intact.

**STIFF UPPER LIPS** (15)  
Director: Gary Sinyor  
Starring: Peter Ustinov, Prunella Scales, Samuel West, Sean Pertwee, Georgina Cates  
One of the most cheerfully pleasurable British movies in recent memory from the man who co-directed the abysmal *Leon the Pig Farmer*. Fluffy in tone, but painfully precise in its observations, the film is a series of inspired riffs on Merchant/Ivory productions.

**HOTEL DE LOVE** (15)  
Director: Craig Rosenberg  
Starring: Aden Young, Saffron Burrows, Simon Rossell, Pippa Granison  
An Australian romantic comedy, severely hampered by the fact that its leading man looks like a more deranged version of Anthony Perkins.

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

**AFTERGLOW** (15)  
Two couples - fiftysomethings Nick Nolte and Julie Christie, and twentysomethings Lara Flynn Boyle and Jonny Lee Miller - swap partners and try apophorisms in the latest urbane comedy from writer-director Alan Rudolph.

**THE BIG LEBOWSKI** (18)  
"Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges) is a long-haired relic from the 1970s who spends his days bumming around Los Angeles getting stoned and going bowling with his buddies. But there's another Lebowski in the vicinity and a case of mistaken identity sparks off one of the most strung-out mysteries ever.

**BLUES BROTHERS 2000** (PG)  
Eighteen years after the release of the startlingly unfunny *The Blues Brothers*, John Landis and his co-writer Dan Aykroyd have contrived to resurrect the story of Elwood Blues (Aykroyd) who, after the death of his brother, re-emerges from prison and decides to put the old band back together. The film is certainly all-out stupid, but it is also rather endearing.

**THE BUTCHER BOY** (15)  
Neil Jordan's film of Patrick McCabe's blackly comic novel about a maniac, precocious 12-year-old in 1960s Ireland has a macabre thrill about it that is genuinely seductive. Jordan's depiction of the world as seen through the deranged eyes of young Franco (the astounding Eamon Owens) is so rich and unsparring that it pulls you into the movie in the manner of a Grimm fairy tale.

**DAD SAVAGE** (18)  
Patrick Stewart sheds his *Star Trek* image to play a tulip-growing, Country & Western-obsessed, East Anglian crime boss in this worthy attempt at re-inventing the British thriller.

**DARK CITY** (15)  
Alex Proyas, director of *The Crow*, returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare. Amnesiac suspected serial-killer Rufus Sewell is pursued by dour inspector William Hurt and Richard O'Brien as one of a sinister breed of aliens known as "The Strangers".

**DECONSTRUCTING HARRY** (18)  
Woody Allen's most honest and intelligent film in more than a decade.

**DEEP IMPACT** (12)  
A meteor the size of New York is on a collision course with the Earth unless astronaut Robert Duvall can intercept it. Ropy characterisation and a complete absence of wit are only the worst things about this heavy-handed disaster movie.

**FISTS IN THE POCKET** (NC)  
A new print of Marco Bellocchio's 1965 classic.

**THE GENERAL** (15)  
John Boorman's best film in two decades charts the career of Dublin gangster Martin Cahill, who ran rings round the Garda with a series of heists before the IRA put him out of business in 1994.

**THE HANGING GARDEN** (15)  
Gay hero, Sweet William, returns home for the wedding of his sister (Kerry Fox), who is marrying the boy that William once had a crush on. In this disarming drama.

**HAPPY TOGETHER** (15)  
Giddy tour of modern urban life, structured around the violently unpredictable romance between two men who arrive in *Argentina* from Hong Kong, and fall into a cycle of breaking up and making up.

**JACKIE BROWN** (15)  
In Jackie Brown, the eponymous flight attendant (Pam Grier) and mobster Ordell (Samuel L. Jackson) whom she's moonlighting for take centre stage. But the movie's main focus is the desperation of each of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late.

**LIVE FLESH** (18)  
A novel by Ruth Rendell is the unlikely origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date, though the action has been shifted to Madrid and crammed with sexual symbolism so potent it leaves you reeling.

**LOLITA** (18)  
Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure.

**LOVE ETC** (15)  
The meandering French drama stars Charlotte Gainsbourg as a woman torn between her husband and his best friend.

**THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS** (U)  
A welcome re-release for Orson Wells's 1942 near-masterpiece about a wealthy family whose conflicting emotions tear them apart.

**MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE** (15)  
This intermittently engaging romantic comedy sees Martha, an American visiting London on a whim, going on separate dates with three men who turn out to be best friends.

**MY SON THE FANATIC** (15)  
Hamid Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable, progressive Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim.

**NOWHERE** (18)  
One-man film factory Gregg Araki returns to the nihilistic landscape of *The Doom Generation* with another hallucinatory journey through an LA underground inhabited by young ambisexual drifters, sadomasochists, airheads, and, this time around, a few angels for good measure.

**ONCE UPON A TIME... WHEN WE WERE COLORED** (NC)  
Nostalgic look back to life in 1940s Mississippi.

**THE REAL BLONDE** (15)  
Tom Dickey's picky satire on the fashion industry doesn't have enough original or incidental ideas to go around, but it is charmingly played by a game cast, and littered with surprises and fuzzy one-liners.

**RED CORNER** (15)  
Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda.

**THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS** (18)  
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. Chow plays a hitman with a conscience who finds himself pursued by both the police and by the mob's "replacement killers".

**SLIDING DOORS** (15)  
Sliding Doors is a romantic comedy set in the space-time continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors (John Hannah and John Lynch). Just what the world needed: a humorous reinterpretation of Kieslowski's *Blind Chance*.

**STAR KID** (PG)  
Amiable children's adventure about a young boy (Joseph Mazzello from *Jurassic Park*) who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination.

**THE TASTE OF CHERRY** (PG)  
The winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. In *Paris* - an Iranian man drives around the outskirts of Tehran looking for someone to help him commit suicide - but thanks to naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience.

**TITANIC** (12)  
Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute for Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks.

**WASHINGTON SQUARE** (PG)  
Bringing up the rear of the latest Henry James boom comes the story of the moosey New York heiress (Jennifer Jason Leigh) whose dour father (Albert Finney) forbids her marriage to a dashing but penniless suitor (Ben Chaplin).

**THE WEDDING SINGER** (12)  
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (*Saturday Night Live*'s Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore).

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



**The Girl with Brains in Her Feet** is no masterpiece, but when a British feature makes you smile rather than curl your toes in embarrassment, it's worth noting. Joanna Ward plays the budding teenage athlete wrestling with her hormones, while John Thomson (*The Fast Show*) is a joy as her extravagantly sideburned coach. On general release.

### Film Ryan Gilbey

NICOLAS ROEG never again made a film as cunning or resonant as his 1973 thriller *Don't Look Now* (left). Julia Christie and Donald Sutherland are the grieving couple who try to recover from the death of their daughter with a journey to Venice. The picture's enigmatic allure lies in the way it stubbornly resists all rational interpretation: it has kept me awake for more nights than I can remember. Manchester Cornerhouse (0161-200 1500).

### Dance Louise Levene

THE ROYAL Ballet are currently running the theatrical equivalent of one of those "Sorry we missed your birthday" cards and are celebrating the centenary of Dame Ninette de Valois some 10 days after the event. For Monday night, they created a swift chef's salad of extracts from Madam's ballets and, although that programme was a one-off, her *Rake's Progress* will be danced every night this week. De Valois's deft characterisation brings Hogarth's paintings to life in a set of moving vignettes which trace the Rake's passage from spendthrift optimism to the horrors of the lunatic asylum. The ballet shares a programme with a new work by Ashley Page and a revival of Frederick Ashton's 1956 *Birthday Offering*. Among those on display tonight are Darcey Bussell (*above*) and the inimitable Sylvie Guillem. Barbican Theatre, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) 7.45pm.



### Theatre Dominic Cavendish

ONLY A few months back, the most famous comic poet to have emerged from London this century was delighting audiences with his latest show, *John Hegley and Nigel*. Tonight sees the premiere of *Five*, billed as "a unique theatre/poetry event". There is, allegedly, some kind of scenario - namely, Ancient Rome, in which Hegley (*below*) finds himself at the mercy of a bad Samaritan. If it's more than the usual carefully artless verse, then the man really is entering a golden age; if not, who cares? *Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh* (0131-228 1404) 8pm. Mamet and Marber should be a class double-act. Marber, who, rather infuriatingly, is as good a director as he is a playwright, takes on *The Old Neighbourhood*. In this "trio of interrelated scenes", a middle-aged Chicagoan and a Jewish Jew returns to the city of his birth to meet up with his significant others. Get in quick while it's previewing. *Royal Court Theatre, Downstairs at the Duke of Yorks, London WC2* (0171-565 5000) 7.30pm.



### Events Judith Palmer

YOU DON'T need to join the Glastonbury mud-bath to satisfy your summer urge for rain on canvas. Cosy into a steaming tent with top French circus trio *Que-Chi-Que* (right) for an intimate night of mesmerizing choreography and acrobatic visual theatre. No chainsaw-wielding bikers here, but a huskily subtle display of skills woven into a sensuous narrative. Strongman Hyacinth Reich throws his macho heart at trapeze artist Emmanuelle Jacqueline, while rival-in-love Jean-Paul Lefevre tries to crown his way into her affections. There are some very witty tricks with simple props and a percussive soundtrack which mixes Miles Davis with Tom Waits. *Highbury Fields, London NW* (0171-288 6700) 7.30pm.



## CINEMA WEST END

**AFTERGLOW** (15)  
Odeon Haymarket 2pm, 6pm, 8.35pm  
(+ Short: Slung)

**THE APOSTLE** (12)  
Screens on the Hill 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm  
Screens on the Green 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm  
Barbican Screens 6pm, 8.40pm  
Mollington Hill Coronet 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm  
Empire Leicester Square 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm  
Ritz Cinema 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm

**AS GOOD AS IT GETS** (15)  
ABC Pantons Street 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

**LE BALLON D'OR** (U)  
Ritz Cinema 1.50pm

**BENT** (18)  
Odeon Camden Town Tue 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

**THE BIG LEBOWSKI** (18)  
Screens on the Hill 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm  
ABC Pantons Street 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm  
Odeon Camden Town 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.50pm  
Warner Village West End 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

**THE BIG SWAP** (18)  
Screens on the Hill 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 9.15pm  
Plaza 12.35pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

**DAD SAVAGE** (18)  
ABC Piccadilly 1.25pm, 6.05pm

**DARK CITY** (15)  
Warner Village West End 11.55am, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm  
Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 5.55pm  
Virgo Trocadero 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm

**DECONSTRUCTING HARRY** (18)  
Phoenix Cinema 9pm  
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**DEEP IMPACT** (12)  
Empire Leicester Square 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm  
Odeon Marble Arch 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.50pm  
UCI Whiteleys 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm  
Virgo Trocadero 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm  
Virgo Fulham Road 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm

**THE GENERAL** (15)  
Virgo Haymarket 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm  
Ritz Cinema 3.30pm, 6.20pm  
(+ Short: Dances Lesle Dances) Warner Village West End 1.05pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm  
Clapham Picture House 12.30pm, 3pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm  
Odeon Camden Town 12.05pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm

**THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET** (15)  
Ritz Cinema 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm  
ABC Pantons Street 1.25pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm  
ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm

**GOOD WILL HUNTING** (15)  
ABC Pantons Street 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

**THE GRASS HARP** (PG)  
ABC Piccadilly 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

**THE HANGING GARDEN** (15)  
ABC Piccadilly 3.50pm, 8.40pm

**HAPPY TOGETHER** (15)  
ABC Swiss Centre 6.20pm

**HOTEL DE LOVE** (15)  
Warner Village West End 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.10pm  
Virgo Trocadero 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm  
UCI Whiteleys 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.35pm

**JACKIE BROWN** (15)  
Phoenix Cinema Wed 5.15pm  
Plaza 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm

**KUNDTUN** (12)  
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 8.20pm

**LA CONFIDENTIAL** (18)  
Phoenix Cinema 2.30pm

**LIVE FLESH** (18)  
Gate Notting Hill 4.30pm, 9.05pm  
Curzon Minima 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm  
Odeon Camden Town 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm  
Metro 2pm, 4.15pm, 8.30pm, 8.45pm  
Screens on Baker Street 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm  
Richmond Picturehouse 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Ritz Cinema 9.10pm  
Renoir 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm

**LOLITA** (18)  
Warner Village West End 11.40am, 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm  
Virgo Haymarket 1.30pm, 5.15pm, 8pm

**MARTHA - MEET FRANK, DANIEL & LAURENCE** (15)  
Virgo Chelsea 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
Odeon West End 4.45pm, 8.50pm

**MY SON THE FANATIC** (15)  
ABC Swiss Centre 3.55pm, 8.40pm

**NOWHERE** (18)  
Metro 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

**THE REAL BLONDE** (15)  
ABC Swiss Centre 1.30pm, 6pm

**RED CORNER** (15)  
Odeon Marble Arch 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9.20pm  
Plaza 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm  
Virgo Fulham Road 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm  
Virgo Trocadero 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm

**THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS** (18)  
Virgo Trocadero 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm  
UCI Whiteleys 6.10pm, 9.45pm

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO & JULIET** (12)  
UCI Whiteleys 7pm

**THE SCARLET TUNIC** (12)  
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.30pm, 6.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm

**SCREEN 2** (18)  
Warner Village West End 3.20pm, 8.50pm

**SHALL WE DANCE?** (PG)  
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**SLIDING DOORS** (15)  
UCI Whiteleys 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Empire Leicester Square 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8pm  
Virgo Trocadero 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm  
Virgo Fulham Road 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm, 8.55pm  
ABC Baker Street 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm

**SOUL FOOD** (15)  
UCI Whiteleys 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9pm  
Ritz Cinema 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
Odeon Kennington 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm  
Ritz Cinema 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Virgo Trocadero 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.40pm, 9.30pm, 9.40pm, 9.30pm  
Warner Village West End 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm  
Virgo Chelsea 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm  
Washington Square 2.10pm, 5pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm  
The Wedding Singer 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

**STIFF UPPER LIPS** (15)  
Virgo Chelsea 2pm, 5.45pm, 9.30pm  
Plaza 1pm, 3.50pm, 6pm, 8.10pm  
Warner Village West End 11.45am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm, 9.30pm

**STRAIGHT NO CHASER** (PG)  
Phoenix Cinema 6.15pm + Round Midnight

**THE TASTE OF CHERRY** (PG)  
Renoir 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

**A THOUSAND ACRES** (15)  
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Curzon Mayfair 1.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Virgo Fulham Road 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
Clapham Picture House 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm  
Odeon Camden Town 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

**THE GRASS HARP** (PG)  
ABC Piccadilly 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

**THE HANGING GARDEN** (15)  
ABC Piccadilly 3.50pm, 8.40pm

**HAPPY TOGETHER** (15)  
ABC Swiss Centre 6.20pm

**HOTEL DE LOVE** (15)  
Warner Village West End 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.10pm  
Virgo Trocadero 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm  
UCI Whiteleys 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.35pm

**JACKIE BROWN** (15)  
Phoenix Cinema Wed 5.15pm  
Plaza 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm

**KUNDTUN** (12)  
ABC Swiss Centre 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 8.20pm

**LA CONFIDENTIAL** (18)  
Phoenix Cinema 2.30pm

**WASHINGTON SQUARE** (PG)  
Gate Notting Hill 2.05pm, 6.40pm  
Virgo Haymarket 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Screens on Baker Street 3.15pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm  
Chelsea Cinema 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**THE WEDDING SINGER** (12)  
Barbican Screen 8.40pm  
Clapham Picture House 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm  
Odeon Marble Arch 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm  
Ritz Cinema 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm  
Odeon Kennington 7.10pm, 9.40pm  
ABC Tottenham Court Road 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm  
ABC Baker Street 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm  
Odeon Camden Town 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm  
UCI Whiteleys 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Virgo Chelsea 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm  
Odeon West End 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**WILD THINGS** (18)  
Odeon Marble Arch 1.05pm, 8.50pm  
Odeon West End 1.20pm, 6.20pm

**WISHMASTER** (18)  
Warner Village West End 9.50pm

**CINEMA LONDON LOCALS**

**ACTON**

**ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE** (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal Park City 2.50pm, 7.10pm  
Deep Impact 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm  
Red Corner 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm  
The Replacement Killers 5pm, 8.05pm, 10.15pm  
Sliding Doors 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Soul Food 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm  
Stiff Upper Lips 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 5.45pm, 7.55pm, 10.05pm  
Titanic 1.10pm, 5.10pm  
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

**BARKING**

**ODEON** (0181-507 8444) @ Barking The Big Lebowski 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm  
Blues Brothers 2000 12.45pm,



## 22/LISTINGS

**SCREAM 2** 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm  
**SLIDING DOORS** 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
**A Thousand Acres** 12.15pm, 2.35pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm

**SIDCUP** (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

**STAPLES CORNER** VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Chickadee Deep Impact 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm  
**Red Corner** 1.15pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm  
**The Replacement Killers** 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm  
**Soul Food** 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

**STREATHAM** ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Deep Impact 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm  
**The Grass Harp** 2.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm  
**Sliding Doors** 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.40pm

**ODEON** (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill/Brickton/Claughton Common Dark City 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
**The Girl With Brains In Her Feet** 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm  
**The Replacement Killers** 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm  
**Washington Square** 4.15pm, 9.10pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm

**STRATFORD** NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0553366) BR/PG: Stratford East The Real Blonde 3pm, 5.50pm  
**Soul Food** 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm  
**Titanic** 3.30pm, 7.40pm  
**Washington Square** 4.15pm, 9.10pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm

**SUTTON** UCI (0990-688990) BR: Sutton 3.30pm  
**Deep Impact** 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.45pm  
**Red Corner** 3.45pm  
**William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet** 7.10pm  
**Scream** 2 6.15pm  
**Sliding Doors** 4.30pm, 7pm, 8.50pm  
**Titanic** 4pm, 8pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm  
**Wild Things** 9pm  
**Wishmaster** 9.45pm

**TURNPIKE LANE** CORONET (0181-688 2519) PG: Turnpike Lane The General 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 8pm  
**Red Corner** 3.20pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 4pm, 5.30pm, 8.00pm

**UXBRIDGE** ODEON (01895-813139) PG: Uxbridge Deep Impact 1.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**WALTHAMSTOW** ABC (0870-9020424) PG: Walthamstow Central Deep Impact 3.30pm, 5.50pm  
**Soul Food** 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm  
**Wishmaster** 8.47pm

**WALTON ON THAMES** THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-332625) BR: Walton on Thames Sliding Doors 3.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

**WELL HALL** CORONET (0181-650 3551) BR: Well Hall The Big Lebowski 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

**WIMBLEDON** ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR: Wimbledon The Big Lebowski 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm  
**The Boxer** 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm  
**Live Flesh** 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
**Sliding Doors** 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

**WOODFORD** ABC (0181-989 3463) BR: Woodford The Big Lebowski 8.10pm  
**Deep Impact** 2.10pm, 5.40pm  
**Sliding Doors** 2.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
**The Wedding Singer** 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

**WOOLWICH** CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm  
**The Replacement Killers** 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

## CINEMA

### REPERTORY

**LONDON** CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry Place SW7 (01878-2142/2146) BR: Bad Good Man 7.30pm

**EVERYMAN** Holybush Lane NW3 (0171-435 1525) BR: The Galka's Fear Of The Penalty (PG) 1.40pm + Kings Of The Road 3.30pm

**ICA** The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647) NR: (18) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

**THE LUX CINEMA** Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) BR: The Good Wife Of Tokyo (NC) 6.30pm + Short

**NFT** South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) BR: Titanic (12) 2pm  
**Prisoners** (18) 6.10pm  
**Hold The Blonde: Veronica Lake** (NC) 8.30pm  
**Colour In The 1920s - The Open Road: Museum Special Event** (NC) 7.30pm  
**The Seventh Seal** (15) 8.30pm  
**Reservoir Dogs** (18) 8.45pm

**PEPSI IMAX** The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) BR: Everest (U) 1.15pm, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm, 7.35pm, 9.40pm  
**Across The Sea Of Time - A New York Adventure** (3-4) (U) 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm, 10.40pm

**PHOENIX** High Road N2 (0181-983 2233) BR: Afterglow (15) 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
**L.A. Confidential** (18) 2.30pm  
**Deconstructing Harry** (18) 9pm  
**Jackie Brown** (18) 5.15pm

**PRINCE CHARLES** Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) BR: The Remainer (15) 8.45pm  
**Gomme** (18) 6.30pm  
**Ma Vie Et Rose** (12) 1.30pm  
**The English Patient** (15) 3.30pm

**RIO** Kingsland High Street E7 (0171-254 6677) BR: Soul Food (15) 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** Crisp Road W6 (0181-741 2255) BR: 420 (10) The Life Of O'Hara (PG) 6.15pm + Ugetsu Monogatari 8.50pm

## WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE

High Street, Brentford, Middx (0181-568 1176) BR: Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence (15) 4.30pm  
**Live Flesh** (18) 9pm  
**Kandinsky** (12) 6.30pm

**BRIGHTON** DUKE OF YORKS (01273-626261) BR: The Real Blonde (15) 4.15pm, 5pm  
**Washington Square** (PG) 1.45pm, 6.30pm

**BRISTOL** WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) BR: Afterglow (15) 8.30pm  
**Girlie Shorts** (18) 6pm  
**Western** (15) 5.45pm, 8.20pm

**CAMBRIDGE** ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) BR: Liar (18) 12.45pm, 7.20pm  
**Oscar And Lucinda** (15) 5pm  
**The Real Blonde** (15) 3pm, 9.30pm

**CARDIFF** CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) BR: Accident (15) 7.30pm  
**Bride Of War** (12) 2.30pm, 8pm

**IPSWICH** IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215644) BR: Washington Square (PG) 6.15pm, 8.30pm  
**Western** (15) 6pm, 8.30pm

**NORWICH** CITY (01603-622047) BR: The Boxer (15) 5.45pm  
**TwentyFourSeven** (15) 8.15pm

**PLYMOUTH** PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) BR: Jook Mail (Butterfingers) (15) 8pm

## CINEMA

### COUNTRYWIDE

## THEATRE

### WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals. ● - Seats at all prices. ● - Seats at some prices. ● - Returns only. Matinee - (11) Sun, (13) Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thu, (6) Fri, (7) Sat

**● OART** Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-389 1736/cc 967 111) ● Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 11pm, 9.50-12.50, 90 mins.

**● AS YOU LIKE IT** Shakespeare's literary comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge. In rep. today 2.00pm, 5.50-8.20, concs available.

**● BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Lavish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the famous fairy tale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-556 1888) ● Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.20pm, 11.50-12.50, 150 mins.

**● BLOOD BROTHERS** Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ● Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5) 3pm, (7) 4pm, 10.50-12.50, 165 mins.

**● BUDDY** Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ● Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats (1) 4pm, 26.75-5.30, 160 mins.

**● CATS** Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ● Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3) 7.30pm, 12.50-12.50, 165 mins.

**● CHICAGO** Ruthie Henshall stars. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0355) ● Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (4) 7.20pm, 12.50-12.50, 130 mins.

**● CLOSER** Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships. Lyric Shafesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 9.50-12.50, 140 mins.

**● THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** Reduced Shakespeare Company's romp through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ● Pic. Cite. Tue-Sun, booking to Sept 22, 19.50-22.00

**● ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES** David Farr's comedy about one man's obsession with the football club. Queen's Shafesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5591) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 9pm, (4) 3pm, 10pm, 10.50-12.50

**● GAS STATION ANGEL** Story of two lovers who are forced to meet, from the creator of House Of America. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West End Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (7) 4pm, ends 27 Jun, 5.50-10, benches 10p, 10m & matinee - all seats £5

**● GREASE** Marissa Dunlop stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Earls Court, WC2 (0171-494 5080) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 130 mins.

**● AN IDEAL HUSBAND** Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Hara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730/cc 967 111) ● Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5) 3pm, (7) 4pm, 10.50-12.50, 165 mins.

**● AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ● Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 5pm, 10.50-12.50, 110 mins.

**● KAT AND THE KINGS** Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vauxhall Strand, WC2 (0171-636 9987) BR/PG: Charing X. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 130 mins.

**● A LETTER OF RESIGNATION** Hugh Whitemore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Swan Strand, WC2 (0171-636 9888/cc 836 0479) ● Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 4pm, 12.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**● THE MAIDS** Robert Lepage's staging of Genet's classic drama. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0171-741 2311) ● Hammersmith. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Jun, 5.50-12.50

**● THE MERCHANT OF VENICE** Shakespeare's cross cultural comedy. The Globe New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-401 9919) ● London Bridge. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, ends 19 Sep, 5.50-12.50, concs available.

**● A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** Shakespeare's comedy set in the fairy kingdom. Open Air Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431/cc 486 1933) ● Baker Street. In rep. tonight 8pm, ends 3 Sep, 5.50-12.50

**● LES MISERABLES** Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Shafesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.20pm, (7) 2.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 195 mins.

**● THE MISANTHROPE** Elaine Paige, Michael Pennington, Peter Bowles and Anna Carter star in Reginald Poulton's translation of Moliere's comedy. Piccadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-369 1734) ● Pic. Cite. In rep. tonight 7.45pm, continuing, 9.50-12.50, concs £12.50, 140 mins.

**● MISS SAIGON** Musical which retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 165 mins.

**● THE MOUSETRAP** Agatha Christie's whodunit still going strong. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-369 1443) ● Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 2.45pm, (7) 5pm, 9.50-12.50, 135 mins.

## ● MUCH ADO ABOUT

NOTHING Declan Donnellan directs Cheek By Jowl in a new production of Shakespeare's classic. Playhouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401/cc 316 4747) ● Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.20pm, ends 25 Jul, 10.50-12.50

**● THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 150 mins.

**● POPCORN** Lawrence Boswell directs Ben Elton's satire on cinema. Apollo Shafesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5077) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 8pm, (4) 4pm, (7) 4pm, 10.50-12.50, 150 mins.

**● THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND & BLACK COMEDY** Double bill of drama from Tom Stoppard and Peter Schaffer, directed by Gregory Doran. Comedy Park Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ● Pic. Cite/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 165 mins.

**● RENT** Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shafesbury Shafesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) ● Holborn/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 160 mins.

**● ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE** ● Olivier: Brassed Off Moving drama about the home-blowing miners of the closing Grimley Colliery. In rep. today 2pm & 7.15pm, ends 24 Jun. ● Cottesloe: The Day I Stood Still Kevin Elford's new play based on a friendship forged in the 1960s and directed by Ian Rickman. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, 110 mins. Oliver: 25-27, Cottesloe: 12-18, Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-422 3000) ● Embankment.

**● SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** Hit 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Apollo Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**● SHOW BOAT** Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's musical set on the Mississippi. Price Edward Old Compton Street, W1 (0171-447 5452) ● Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.20pm, 10.50-12.50, 160 mins.

**● SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER** The rock and roll hitmakers celebrated in a musical revue that includes Jailhouse Rock, Prince of Wales County Street, W1 (0171-639 5572) ● Leic Sq/Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 8pm, Fri-Sat 5.45pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**● STARLIGHT EXPRESS** Andrew Lloyd Webber's best-selling musical. Apollo Victoria W1 (0171-494 5020) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**● SWEET CHARITY** Some of the greatest stars in this classic musical featuring the numbers Fly Me to the Moon and the rhythm of Life. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-924 1817) ● Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50

**● THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE** Jane Asher stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Gielgud Shafesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ● Pic. Cite. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 140 mins.

**● THE UNEXPECTED MAN** Yasmina Reza's follow-up to Art is a drama about a novelist and a life-long admirer. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) ● Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, (4) 4pm, (7) 5pm, 10.50-12.50, 100 mins.

**● WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND** Andrew Lloyd-Webber's latest. Aldwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) ● Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 3pm, (7) 3pm, 8.50-12.50

**● THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, W1 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) ● Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 3pm, (7) 4pm, 8.50-12.50, 110 mins.

## THEATRE

### BEYOND THE WEST END

**BUSH THEATRE** Love You, Ted Doug Lude's follow up to Shadowed. Mon-Fri 8pm, ends 27 Jun, 10.50, concs £7. Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-734 3888) ● Shepherd's Bush.

**MAN IN THE MOON** Theatre Transpennine Irvine Welsh's look at addiction and boredom in Scotland. Tue-Fri 7.30pm, ends 27 Jun, 5.50, concs £6. Kings Road, SW3 (0171-351 2876) ● Sloane Square/South Kensington.

**THEATRO TECHNICO** Low Of Don Partridge & Biffa In His Garden Double bill of drama from Lorca. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, ends 27 Jun, 5.50, concs £5. Cromwell Road, NW1 (0171-383 5450) ● Camden Town/Mornington Crescent.

**TRICITY THEATRE** The Bessie Bell 18th century restoration comedy about the loves, lives and intrigues of a group of gamblers. Mon-Fri 8pm, ends 11 Jul, 5.50-12.50, concs available. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) ● Kilburn.

**UPSTAIRS AT THE GATEHOUSE** The Importance Of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde's ubiquitous comedy of coincidences. Tue-Fri 8.15pm, ends 27 Jun, 8.50, concs £4-£5. Gatehouse Pub, N6 (0181-340 3488) ● Highgate.

## THEATRE

### COUNTRYWIDE

**BATH** THEATRE ROYAL Two By Pinter: The Collection & The Lover Harold Pinter appears alongside Liz Williams and Douglas Hodge. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thu & Fri 8pm, mat Wed 2.30pm, ends 20 Jun, 10.50-12.50, 130 mins. (01223-44844/cc 448861)

## FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

### First Call

IF THERE was an award for filling an audience with apprehension, then Cirque du Soleil would win hands-down. Packed with Cirque's trademark death-defying stunts, their latest show, Alegria, inhabits a surreal kingdom. Even the most vivid imagination might find it hard to envisage a woman rolling 20 hoops around her hips, while standing on tip-toe with her other leg up by her ears. Or a former Olympic gymnast swinging high above the ground in a giant steel cube. Alegria makes a mockery of any preconceived ideas of the circus, so book while you have the chance. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-589 8212) from 5 to 24 Jun 1998

### Last Call

THE self-proclaimed superstar has a few dates left for her comedy, New Edna the Spectacle right. The first half is dedicated to Dame Edna's biography and is told through musical parody. Then, the lady herself appears in the second part, introduced by the Australian Minister for Culture, Sir Les Patterson. Audience immersion, her own immaculate pregnancy and an encounter with a dog-breeding lesbian daughter, show there are still a few gems in Edna's bag. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800) to 27 Jun



## EXHIBITIONS

**BRISTOL** HIPPODROME THEATRE Boogie Nights Share Ritchie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Wed 2.30pm, ends 20 Jun, 5.50-12.50, concs available. St. Augustines Parade (0117-929 9444)

**CANTERBURY MARLOWE THEATRE** The Goodbye Girl Mark Webb and Gary Wilmot star. Tue-Fri 7.30pm, mats Wed & Thu 11-18, 2.20pm, ends 20 Jun, 9.50-12.50, concs available. The Friars (01222-787878)

**CARDIFF** NEW THEATRE West Side Story Bernstein and Sondheim's musical grand grand version of Romeo and Juliet. Fri 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, ends 4 Jul, 12.50-12.50. Park Place (01222-552525)

**CHELMSFORD** CRAMPHORN THEATRE Not About Heroes Story about the making and ending of a musical. Wed 8pm, Fri 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, ends 4 Jul, 12.50-12.50. Park Place (01222-552525)

**CHELTENHAM** EVERYMAN THEATRE Kind Hearts And Coronets Robert Daws and David Selous star in a musical comedy. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**CHICHESTER** FESTIVAL THEATRE Saturday, Sunday... And Monday Comedy comedy set in a village about family tensions in the run up to the Festival. Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1EX. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**CHICHESTER** FESTIVAL THEATRE Sunday, Sunday... And Monday Comedy comedy set in a village about family tensions in the run up to the Festival. Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1EX. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**CHICHESTER** FESTIVAL THEATRE Sunday, Sunday... And Monday Comedy comedy set in a village about family tensions in the run up to the Festival. Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1EX. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, 10.50-12.50, 135 mins.

**CHICHESTER** FESTIVAL THEATRE Sunday, Sunday... And Monday Comedy comedy set in a village about family tensions in the run up to the Festival. Chichester Festival







## Channel 5

### THIRTEENTH REVISION

to the re-orientation of, let's call it, the *unconscious* world with the kind of intensity you'd only expect to discover in a genuine. The programme, in which a young single girl talks about the most penetrating death from cancer, resulted in an immense call for repeats and many words for the writer. Television could hardly be expected to pass over such an opportunity, although it must have been immediately obvious that it was in a disbalance when it came to representing the emotional cure. It's one thing to sit on people, unmaneuvered, ripe material to follow a farther into the room. There's also the problem

avoided the first obvious pitfall in transferring the work to television — it had not been dramatized so that the pictures you saw were merely illustrations (on the few occasions they were, you could feel the thing sag towards earnestness) but rather a free-form assemblage — sometimes tracing Spaventa's notes very closely, at other times providing more distant harmonies. It was the approach of a video director shooting a song rather than a film director shooting a script.

Exons had thus seemingly retained lively Simpson as the speaking voice — a performance that was an extraordinary mixture of affectless shatter and small, brilliant effects, when Spaventa and her brother return from the hospital, where they, like just learned about her illness, she gave a little brilliant lift to the words "and we had about the huge variances in child medicine made this century. Most moving was the recollection of a pediatrician that had been treated from his milk in Africa for what he believed would be the universal two-year-old son, who had taken ill with meningitis. When he reached home, after a voyage of unimaginable loneliness, the boy was still alive, one of the first examples of streptococcus, Steven Clark told us a fascinating account changed attitudes and practices but I wondered whether it was not a little bit reassuring in that implication that medical helplessness is now behind. Such has been the aim of exactly the winter drugs peddled here, that drug-averse parents are a steadily increasing problem. Our children's illnesses might live in that vanished world again.

**8,300 Out of Hours.** More Caesarly-esque lyrics as Dan Ilicic, a young Bosnian refugee, and Roz tieks with burglary (S) (T) (607/949).

**8.40 Children's Health Survival Guide.** Dyblexin (S)  
(1) (6938399).

**8.50 GROUP Children's Health: Every Breath You Take.** Looking at the high incidence of childhood asthma. See *Documentation of the Day*, below (S) (1) (750104).

**10.30 Newsmight.** Paxman's on cell (1) (775434).

**10.00** **Newey Weather (T)** (47920).  
**10.30** **London Tonight (T)** (800543).  
**10.40** **Wednesday Night Live**. Nicky Campbell and Mary McLaughlin aim for controversy (S) (628727).  
**11.00** **Accidentally Loaded** (56494A). **12.50** **Molokaiway (T)**

**10.00 *Ally McBeal*.** The weak clients with a shot at Ally's perfectly formed butt squeezing into a pair of jeans. You can see why women hate her. Tonight, she's defending a naive endowment woman (former Charles Angel Kate Jackson), accused for being too old (5) (T) (R9461).

**10.55 *Jo Whalley*.** Pop stars talk. Hide (5) (T91745).

**11.40 *Weekly Planet*** (509323).

**5 Stages and Hears.** As it stag end hen rights weren't humbling enough already - various reveals elbow Charan 5 in to film their gruesome scoties. Burpee jumps, adpopting and handcuffs feature in the opening programme (S) (T) (VZ56543).

**15 The Jack Doolerty Show (S)** (B5362Z).

**35 Compromising situations.** Anchor dreary, so-called "soft" drama (S) (4829880).

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